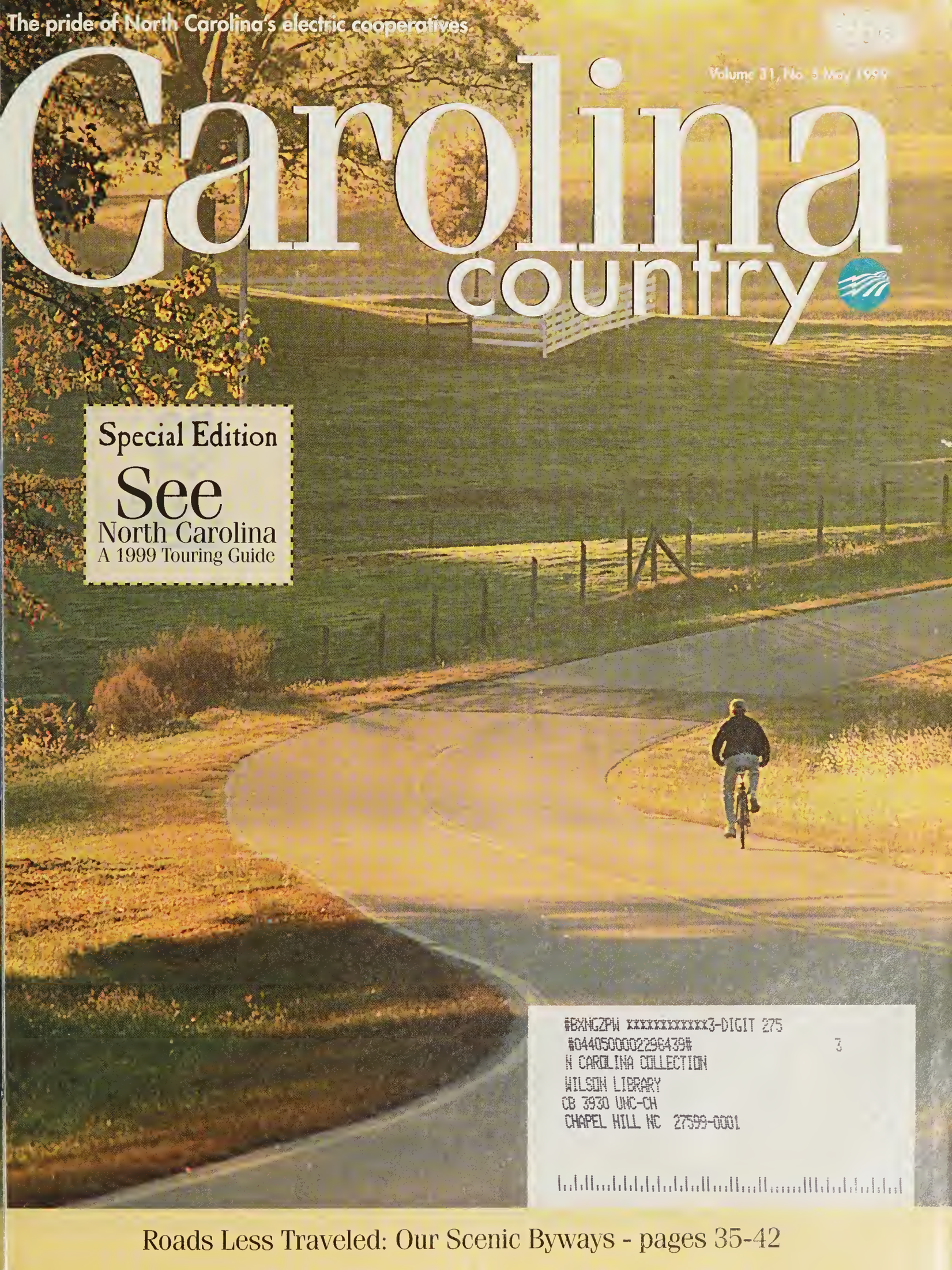
The pride of North Carolina's electric cooperatives

Carolina country

Volume 31, No. 5 May 1999



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See North Carolina

A 1999 Touring Guide

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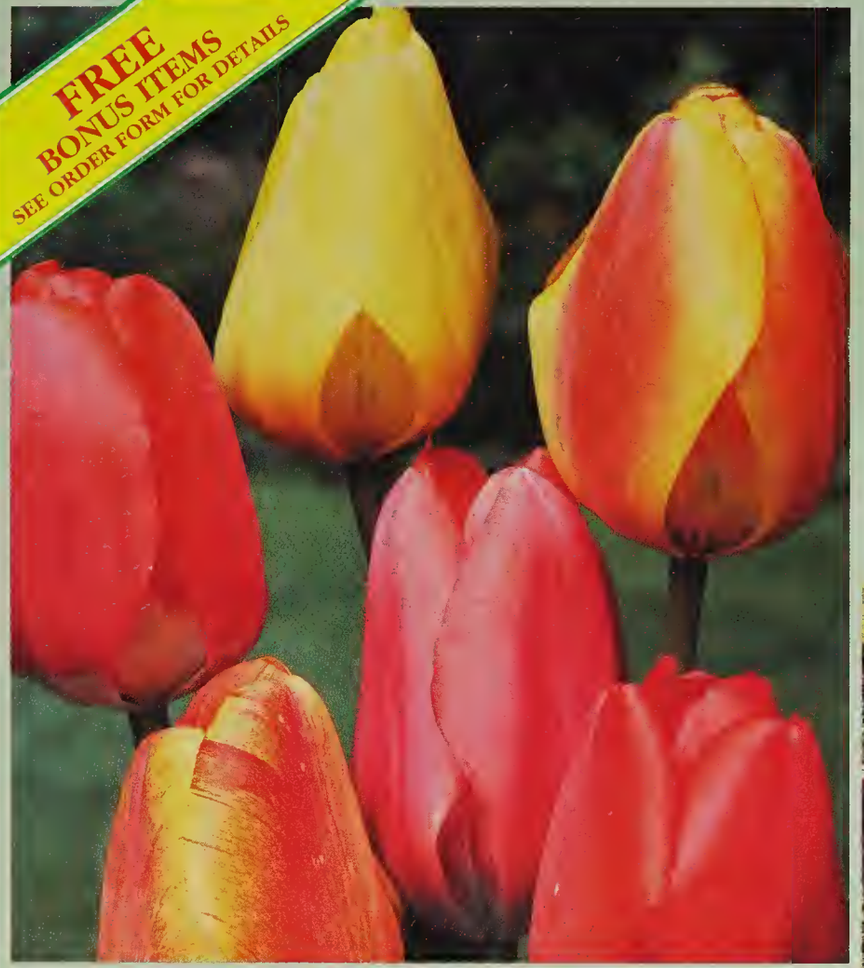
Roads Less Traveled: Our Scenic Byways - pages 35-42



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Has your address changed?

Carolina Country magazine is available monthly to members of North Carolina's electric cooperatives. If you are a member of one of these cooperatives but do not receive Carolina Country, you may request a subscription by calling Member Services at the office of your cooperative. If your address has changed, please inform your cooperative

Volume 31, No. 5, May 1999

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A 1999 Touring Guide

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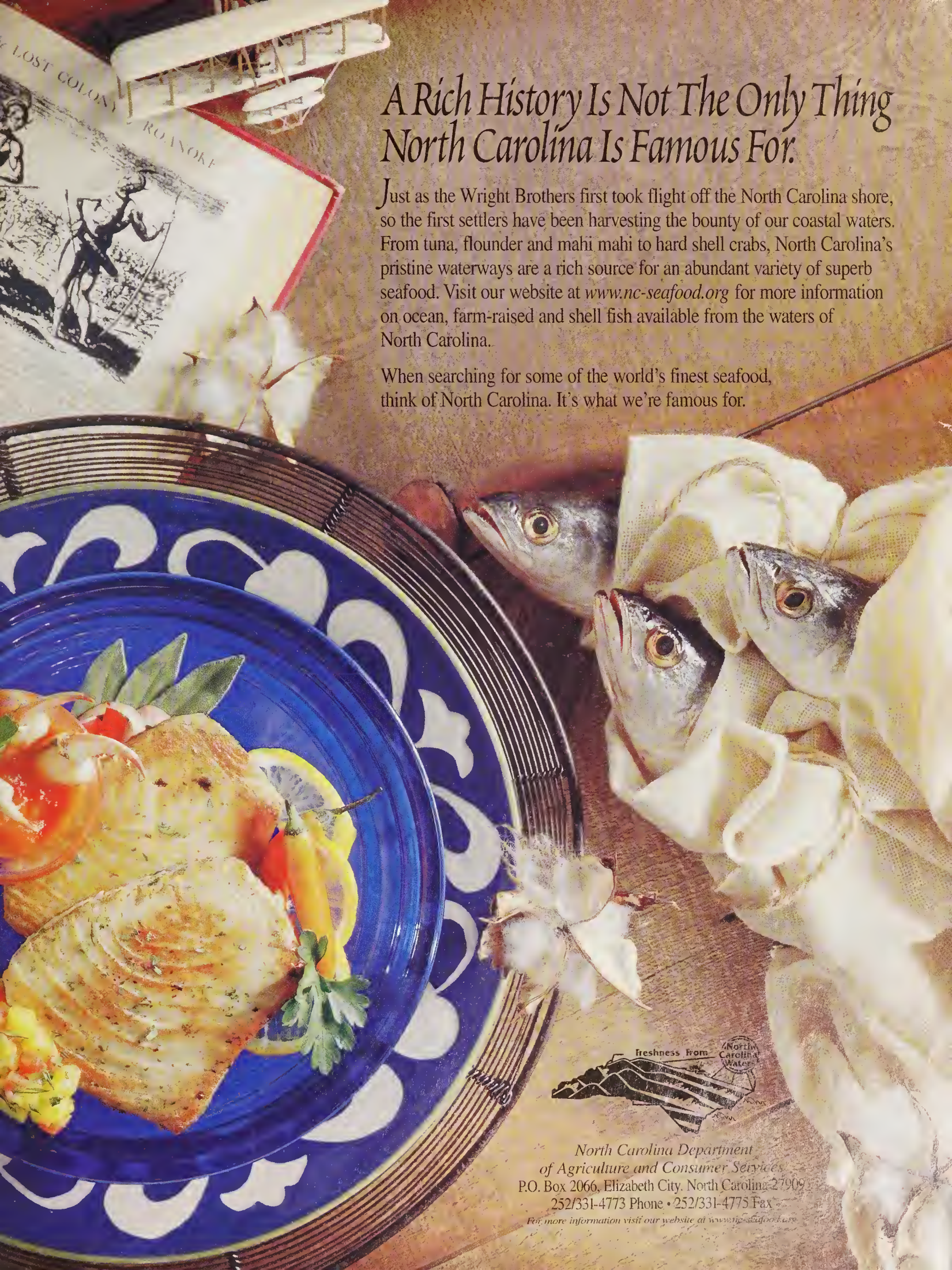
Seeing Wake EMC country near Moore's Pond on the border of Wake and Franklin counties. (©1999 Picturesque /Charles Register)

4-H is North Carolina's Foundation For The Future

Volnnteers are essential to the success of North Carolina's 4-H program. Each year more then 25,000 adults invest their time and energy to provide quality experiences for the 200,000 young people involved in projects ranging from electric to woodworking and first aid.

Some volunteers serve on advisory boards, some serve as judges for events, some participate as club leaders and others attend camp. Volunteer jobs are varied and can be tailored to meet most anyone's schednle. These volunteers come from all walks of life and from all parts of the state. Volunteers may be involved directly with young people or they may prefer to help manage other volnnteers or plan events and activities.

It's easy to get involved in the North Carolina 4-H program. Contact the 4-H agent at your county cooperative extension center or visit the 4-H web site at www.ces.ncsn/depts/fourh to learn more about being involved in this exciting youth organization.



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The essence of life

We've been receiving your Carolina Country for a long time. We get a number of monthly magazines, and yours is the only one that lifts my spirits each and every time I read it. Even so, my life seems too busy to sit down and tell you so.

The excerpt in your March issue, "My Taxes at Work" by Donald Davis, was so wonderful, however, that I can't let another day go by without telling you that your magazine is a jewel. The article is the essence of "parenting." I look forward to passing on this way of looking at taxes to my children.

Thank you for publishing a magazine that talks about good people caring about the essence of life.

Billi Haug
Walnut Creek, Calif.

Dollie Church from Deep Gap

I was so thankful and happy that you printed my mother's "Homegrown Memories" [Commentary, March 1999]. She is 90 years old and was like a child with a new toy when she heard about the printing.

But her name is Dollie Church, not "Della," as printed.

Hollie Greene

The Electric Energy Consumer's Bill of Rights

By B.L. Starnes

For the past few years the front in the battle to protect small business and residential consumers in electric utility restructuring has been waged in state capitals. As those battles continue and as a second front opens in Congress, it is time to once again declare what we believe all consumers are entitled to as restructuring of the electric utility industry begins to shift to Congress.

During our national meeting in March, the directors of your electric cooperative endorsed a resolution that reaffirms our commitment to consumers.

We believe this Electric Energy Consumer Bill of Rights represents the standard against which electric utility restructuring proposals at the state and federal legislatures should be measured. All consumers must be guaranteed:

1. *The right to have access to reliable, affordable and safe electric power.*
2. *The right to join together to establish and operate a consumer-owned not-for-profit electric utility.*
3. *The right of consumer-owned not-for-profit systems to be treated fairly and recognized as a unique form of business.*
4. *The right to elect representatives to manage their consumer-owned form of business to best meet their needs.*
5. *The individual right to privacy that assures information about consumers will not be released without their prior express consent.*
6. *The right to determine the scope of energy services to be furnished through their consumer-owned not-for-profit utilities.*
7. *The right to use consumer-owned, not-for-profit utilities to provide additional services that meet the needs of their consumers and communities.*
8. *The right to work in cooperation with other consumer-owned entities with common goals.*

As the debate continues over the future of how consumers purchase energy services, electric cooperatives will ensure that legislators understand that these rights must be a part of legislation they consider if all consumers are going to be treated fairly. We have been discussing this with our legislators in Raleigh.

We must continue to deliver a clear and focused message that we believe consumers – no matter the size – are entitled to expect certain rights in a restructured utility marketplace.

B.L. Starnes is president of the board of directors of Union Electric Membership Corporation based in Monroe. He lives in Waxhaw.

The shadow knows

Tim Gentry, a reader who enjoys old radio programs, "even though they are older than I am," called about the information we published on the "When Radio Was" radio program [Commentary, March 1999]. We mentioned the Radio Spirits catalog that carries recordings of such programs as "Superman" and "The Shadow."

Mr. Gentry said he has found recordings of old radio programs on tape and CD in such places as Sam's Club, Best Buy and Barnes & Noble.

Light Lines by Donna Hardy

"OK, Hazel, we finally found the most out-of-the-way place in North Carolina. Can we go home now?"

Merle who?

Recently, a friend of mine and I were talking about the upcoming Merlefest in the mountains when my niece, who is about 23, came in the room. We were speaking of Merle Watson and Doc Watson and some of the other bluegrass bands that might be there. My niece asked who this "Merle" was. Merle Haggard?

This was strange because she loves country music, but had no idea who Doc and Merle Watson were and that they are North Carolina legends.

Cheryl Lamb
(via e-mail)

The annual Merlefest is scheduled for April 29-May 2 at Wilkes Community College in North Wilkesboro [Carolina Compass, April 1999]. It is held in memory of Merle Watson and annually attracts big-name musicians and big crowds.

Preserving the spirit and memory of the music made famous by Doc and Merle Watson, along with many others, is one of the projects carried on by Cove Creek Preservation and Development, Inc. in the Watson home grounds of Watauga County. Call (828) 297-2200 or the Web site: www.covecreek.net

Remember the penny custard poem?

I wonder if anyone who sees Carolina Country knows anything about the poem my mother used to say when we were growing up. Three of us sisters and my mother, who is in her 90s, can only remember parts of it. It goes something like this:

A hungry boy bought a penny custard for 5 cents. He threw it through a stone brick wall 9 feet thick after jumping in a dry horse pond. Later that same day, along came a cart loaded with apples.

Thank you.

Millie Clark
1709 Pine Forest Dr.
Scotland Neck, NC 27874-1443

Step right up!

"Joyner Corner" in March told us about the curious 1837 North Carolina state tax revenue of $1,720.20 for Artificial Curiosity and $366.60 for Natural Curiosity. When we asked if anyone knows something about these taxes, we received this reply via e-mail from John Davis.

"The curiosities in question were probably those exhibited to the public by the Barnums of the era. The bureaucrats would naturally demand a piece of the action for allowing access to the local market."

Word play was insensitive

I read this line in one of your reader's submissions titled "For Winter Ale Mints" [Commentary, March 1999]: "Also be shu ah to keep lots of cold jews in the fridge."

As a writer, I fully understand the humor intended by the author's play on words. However, even playful words have social boundaries, when they are in a position to have a double meaning.

The humor is centered on the literal image of cold Jewish people, and lots of them. Since humans don't fit in a normal "fridge," it can easily evoke thoughts of dead Jewish people. Using "jews" to mimic a stuffy nose rendition of "juice" was insensitive to say the least, and not very funny.

Would you have printed the plural of the "N" word in the context of a character with the flu trying to say "knickers"? I don't think so.

So, please, in the future, simply ask the author to use an acceptable substitute that won't offend. By all means, use another spelling, another word, but above all, use your better judgment.

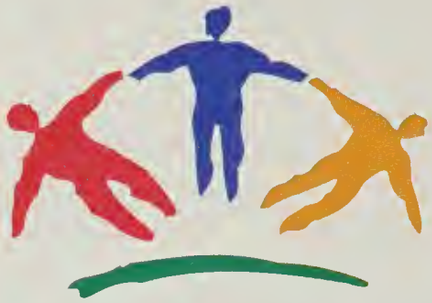
Debra Marie Ferguson
Matthews

Correction

How to reach the Pork Council

Carolina Kitchen's April recipe for Tangy Pork Chops included the former address and telephone number of the North Carolina Pork Council.

Information and pork recipes are available from NC Pork Council, 2300 Rexwoods Drive, Suite 340, Raleigh, NC 27607. Phone: (919) 781-0361



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John Mellencamp begins a "Rural Electrification Tour"

Grammy Award-winning recording and performing artist John Mellencamp will embark on "The Rural Electrification Tour" beginning May 5. The three-month tour, his first in two years, will also feature special guests Son Volt.

Mellencamp is calling the 40-city trek "The Rural Electrification Tour" because, he said, "In the Thirties, rural electrification brought electricity to farmers and other rural dwellers for the first time in their lives, and along with that electricity came radios and record players: Music! We're lucky enough that for the last 20 years, we've had the opportunity play our own small part in bringing music to people; to entertain them and have a lot of fun in the process."

His latest album, "John Mellencamp," was released last fall.

"The Rural Electrification Tour" begins in Texas. Dates include May 23 in Nashville's Antioch First American Music Center, July 7 at Raleigh's Walnut Creek, July 11 in Atlanta's Chastain Park Amphitheater and July 13 in Charlotte's Blockbuster Pavilion. To confirm dates and for ticket information, check the official Web site at www.mellencamp.com/tour/

Shown at the groundbreaking ceremony in Madison are (from left) EnergyUnited's chief executive officer R.B. Sloan Jr., Congressman Richard Burr, co-op board president N. Mack Shoaf, and chief operating officer H. Wayne Wilkins.

EnergyUnited is building a new office in Madison

EnergyUnited celebrated the groundbreaking of its new district office in Rockingham County on March 15 with a ceremony featuring Fifth District Congressman Richard Burr. The new office in Madison is being built on the site of EnergyUnited's former office and operations facility on Highway 704. The 5,000 square-foot office will feature a customer drive-through and a meeting room available for community activities. Approximately 15 EnergyUnited employees will work in the new office, including line crews, customer service representatives and engineering employees.

Customer choice may mean some "won't get chosen"

Consumers will increasingly turn to cooperatives for energy services if the electric utility industry abandons its long-held obligation to serve all customers, predicts Glenn English, chief executive officer of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. Speaking to more than 12,000 representatives from the nation's cooperative electric utilities gathered in Anaheim for the 57th NRECA annual meeting, English singled out energy suppliers that have either threatened to or already have abandoned residential electric customers in states that have allowed some form of electricity deregulation.

Warning that the concept of choice can mean that some consumers "won't get chosen," English read from an employee newsletter published by an investor-owned power company that promised to focus its resources on "those customers who will give us the targeted rate of return. In a deregulated market, we shouldn't try to keep all customers. After deregulation is a reality we will no longer have an obligation to serve," he said, quoting an official of Ohio-based Cinergy.

Alice Wilson, president of the Edgecombe-Martin County EMC board, presenting the Touchstone Energy report at the NRECA annual meeting in Anaheim.

"Changes in our industry will increase the need by consumers for electric cooperatives. According to the cooperative principles, we have a responsibility to meet those needs," he said.

English also called on cooperative officials and consumers to remind their elected officials to recognize the uniqueness of electric cooperatives.

"Together we will aggressively pursue the right of any electric cooperative to enter into any business that any other utility company is allowed to enter," he said.

English praised the electric cooperative network's establishing the Touchstone Energy brand and its standards for consumer protection and service. "Touchstone Energy represents the integrity of the trust and the bond we have with those we serve, and it is a significant contributor to the new sense of unity developing within electric cooperatives," he said.

Y2K Q & A

Q&A

Will my old VCR understand the year "00"?

If you set your VCR on the year 1972, the programmed recording feature could work just fine, because the days of 1972 are the same as 2000.

The Cooperative Way

North Carolina co-op members help bring light to Costa Rican schools

As a board member of EnergyUnited and the former superintendent of Davidson County Schools, Dr. Max Walser does not shy away from leadership roles. Now in his retirement, he is using his skills to help bring electricity to some remote areas of Central America.

Walser recently led a group of volunteers to Costa Rica to install electric circuits in two schools. The two schools, roughly equivalent to K-6 schools in North Carolina, had never before had electricity.

People in some of the "urban" areas of the country have electricity, but the majority of Costa Ricans do not. Many areas that do are served by Costa Rican electric cooperatives, organized in much the same way as electric cooperatives in this country.

Accompanying Walser were six college students, all of whom were former participants in the cooperative Rural Electric Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. The Youth Tour is an annual educational trip sponsored by electric cooperatives across the state. Statesville resident Monika Moore, who represented Crescent EMC on the 1995 Youth Tour, was a member of the delegation.

Max Walser (top, right) and Costa Rican students with electricity in their school

"In the cooperative world we often refer to a quote made famous by a Tennessee farmer in the early 1940s," Walser said. "The farmer, giving witness in a rural Tennessee church, said, 'Brothers and sisters, I want to tell you this. The greatest things on earth is to have the love of God in your heart, and the next greatest thing is to have electricity in your house.' As we stood in that Costa Rican schoolhouse and watched those kids' faces when the lights came on, I thought of that Tennessee farmer."

Walser's trip was coordinated through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's (NRECA) International Foundation. NRECA is a national organization representing about 1,000 cooperatives throughout the United States. Its International Foundation coordinates volunteer relief efforts in developing countries.

Max Walser and his wife, Peggy, live north of Lexington in Welcome. They have two adult children. He has served on the EnergyUnited board of directors for 24 years. – *Kim Whorton Tripp*

David Hoyle says the study commission will look out for residential consumers

Gary A. Whitener, manager of Rutherford EMC, asked state Sen. David Hoyle (D-Gaston County) the question directly: "Will you keep in mind the interests of the rural, residential consumer at the end of the line?"

"You better believe it, Gary," the senator replied.

More than 400 members of electric cooperative boards of directors and their staff heard Hoyle's reply at the annual meeting of the co-ops' statewide organizations held March 30 in Raleigh.

Sen. Hoyle speaking to co-op directors in March.

Sen. Hoyle, co-chair of the 23-member Study Commission on the Future of Electric Service in North Carolina, was a principal speaker during the meeting. He said he expects the commission to resume its work "in earnest" in late July or early August. (The commission has not met in recent months because by law such commissions are not permitted to meet during a legislative session. Last year's especially long session forced that suspension through the fall and winter months.)

Hoyle also said the commission will soon see reports from the Research Triangle Institute, which is examining the complex deregulation issues of electricity reliability, economic benefits, the special case of municipal electric systems, and the existing investments utilities have made in infrastructure.

"Deregulation of this industry is inevitable in some form," Hoyle said. "But the horizon may have changed. It may be prolonged."

Hoyle said that "pressure from large, industrial users to move it along has been intense, believe me." He added that the marketers urging for open retail competition as soon as possible "are not interested in the rural, residential customer, and the members of the General Assembly are very aware of that."

"You have done very well at serving the hard to-serve" segments of the market, he said.

Regarding the idea of cooperatives offering other services in a less regulated market, Hoyle said, "There are a lot of areas where you all can do a wonderful job." – *Michael E.C. Gery*

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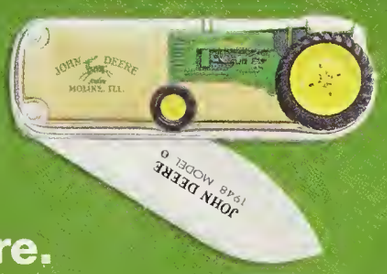

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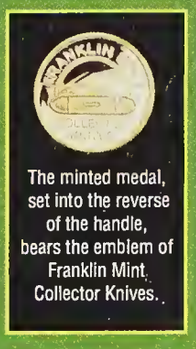

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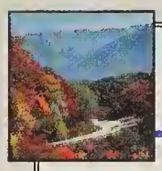


nothing
could be finer

Kickin' up a dust from Four Mile Desert to Tatum Gap

Your stories about "the finest road I've ever been down"

Known as "The Good Roads State" in some quarters, North Carolina maintains the nation's largest state highway system. According to the Department of Transportation, our 77,800 miles of state highways could circle the globe three times at the equator with enough left over to drive across the United States from Manteo to Los Angeles.

All together, we have more than 95,000 miles of roadway in the state.

The longest highway is U.S. Highway 64, which extends some 600 miles from Whalebone Junction near Nags Head to Hothouse in southwestern Cherokee County before heading into Tennessee and ending somewhere in New Mexico.

Historical accounts say that early colonists complained long and hard about the abysmal condition of 18th century roadways here. And, they say, Sherman during his march through here in 1865 would have done more damage than he did if the roads had been better. Governor Locke Craig in the early 1900s set up the first highway commission and became known as the "Good Roads Governor." In the 1920s, the so-called "mud tax" spurred widespread road construction that continued into the 1950s. In fact, it's going on today, including such colossal road-building projects as the I-26 connector in Madison and Buncombe counties, the four-laning of Highway 64 to the Outer Banks, and the new highways coming into and around the Triangle.

Maybe our obsession with roads accounts for the great number of stories we received for this month's collection on "the finest road I've ever been down." More stories came in on this subject than any so far. As always, the judges reported difficulty in choosing only a few.

See page 17 for the remaining 1999 themes.

—MG

IN MEMORY OF
LT. RICHARD G. SHIPLEY
AGE 23, FRESNO, CAL.
LT. HOWARD R. JOHNSON JR.
AGE 23, SHEFFIELD, TEX.
SGT. ROBERT M. ANDERSON
AGE 23, SAN YSIDRO, CAL.
SGT. ROGER H. KNOWLTON
AGE 22, ROCHESTER, N. Y.
TROOP CARRIER COMMAND OF THE UNITED
STATES ARMY AIR CORPS, WHO WERE KILLED
IN LINE OF DUTY WHEN THE ARMY AIRPLANE
IN WHICH THEY WERE FLYING CRASHED ON
THE NIGHT OF AUGUST 27, 1943, TWO AND
ONE-HALF MILES WEST OF THIS POINT.
THIS MARKER IS ERECTED IN THEIR MEMORY
BY THE RESIDENTS OF THIS NEIGHBORHOOD

A sign of humanity

On Highway 210 between Fayetteville and the coast there are no towns, only woods and blueberry fields and a few crossroads stores. The road is so wild I know somebody who drove it at night and ran into a bear.

In the middle of this wilderness, a monument beside the road lists the names, ages and home states of four young men who died when their Army plane went down there in 1943. This isn't a state historical marker. The people in the community put up the monument. In that year, they must have had sons and brothers overseas, and they must have felt a sense of brotherhood with the families of those young fliers who crashed.

It makes the ride less lonely to think that at least some of the people who live on that road now were raised by those who put up that marker, raised to care about others simply because they are human. You feel like if you were in trouble, somebody would be along to help, and if you saw somebody stuck beside the road, you'd stop.

This is one attraction of getting off the beaten track: to discover signs of humanity in the wilderness.

Frank Laffitte
Fayetteville
South River EMC member

Bypassing the bypass

As a child growing up in Greensboro, vacations were always my favorite time of the year. My favorite place to go was (and still is) the Outer Banks. Part of the reason I enjoyed the trip was riding down the stretch of Highway 64 past Rocky Mount and discovering all the small towns. Each was unique and had its own personality, like the welcome sign on the outskirts of Robersonville that says "A town that cares."

As we passed through, I often wondered what it would be like to attend school with the same people all your life, to shell beans under a big tree, to live in a house with a porch swing where you could watch cars and people go by. It seemed like a nice life.

As I got older, I began enjoying some of the things the towns had to offer. The exciting racing at East Carolina Motor Speedway in Robersonville and the beautiful waterfront in Plymouth. The delicious peanuts at Mackey's Ferry Peanut Co. in Roper.

When I go through the town of Columbia during the summer months, my family and I stop at Scuppernong Produce where Mr. and Mrs. Clough always have delicious things from their garden. We always stock up. While there, I notice that local folks will stop by and chat for a while, and many of the ones I've met really brag on Mr. Clough's strawberries. I wish I could go in the spring!

In short, what makes these towns so nice are the people.

They are building a new Highway 64 now that will bypass many of the towns I've grown to love. Sure, a bypass makes a trip shorter and faster, but I think you miss out on the best North Carolina has to offer.

Mariette Riedell
Asheboro
Randolph EMC member

Finding love just around the bend

It was a scorching summer day and nothing was further from my mind than the rutted dirt road that ran in front of our frame house. No one else even lived along its nameless stretch. Clouds of dust caked my bare feet and coated them with a fine film as I left my backyard in search of excitement (or at least a soda) at the general store two miles away.

I was indulging myself in some teenage self-pity. I was stuck out here in the sticks while my friends were spending the summer at the pool in town, gossiping and experiencing their first taste of the romance I longed for myself. That certainly wasn't going to happen to me this summer!

Oh, how wrong I was! I rounded a bend in the road and came face to face with the handsomest boy I had ever seen! He greeted me with a friendly grin, and I knew instantly that I was in love.

Construction on his parents' home was completed the following month on that very spot. That boy became my husband, and now our young sons scamper in the dust visiting their grandparents on either end of the finest road in Carolina!

Over the years we've often strolled hand in hand reminiscing about when we found love down a country road.

Jennifer Jones
Low Gap
Surry-Yadkin EMC member

The high road

The finest North Carolina road I've ever been down is now under water.

Back in the 1960s, my family and I would make a four-hour trip to visit relatives in Lexington two to three times a year. That drive would take us from the Coastal Plain to the Piedmont.

Being accustomed to seeing tobacco barns and cornfields, I enjoyed seeing the different kinds of barns and cow pastures on rolling hills, country stores where Daddy and I could get our Dr. Pepper and peanuts, and flowering dogwood trees beside what I called "camel road" (Highway 64 west of Raleigh).

One time on Highway 64, we noticed another road being built beside it. It seemed as if it was 100 feet higher than the road we were on. I remember what my mother said about it: "Why in the world are they building that road so high?"

The next time we made that trip, we were on that high road looking down at the road we had taken just a few months before. The trees had been cleared away revealing a flooded stream in the middle of the wide clay valley. A few months later, we were surprised to see a lake instead of a flooded stream. It was Jordan Lake.

Myron Carter
Albertson
Tri-County EMC member

The road to Grandpa's and Grandma's

When I was just a girl in the '60s, I thought nothing could be finer than the old dirt road, a half-mile long, that took me to my Grandpa and Grandma Bray's house. Countless times I walked it, kicking up a dust in a dry July or making snow tracks on a blustery January day, always with a butterfly of excitement in my stomach 'cause I knew Grandma would look out her kitchen window and come running out to hug me.

That old road took me by Pa's tobacco fields then down the steep hill where my cousin broke her arm when she wrecked her bike, past the abandoned barn that was all dark and scary inside, by the pasture where horses grazed and blackberries grew, across the sandy low spot where I always imagined copperheads crossed the road, alongside the chicken house, and then sure enough, there was Grandma, shelling peas under the shady oak tree, and Grandpa coming from the corn crib saying, "Is that you, Doodle Bug?"

Now I'm grown with children of my own. Grandpa's and Grandma's voices are long silenced. But I still sometimes walk that old dirt road. The tobacco fields lie fallow now, and that hill where we cousins all sledded doesn't seem nearly as steep as it used to. That old barn fell years ago, and if copperheads cross in the sand, I've never actually seen one. The chicken houses, too, are long gone. But there in the yard, in the swing hanging from that same old oak, is my mother who now lives in my grandparents' old house. And there comes my daddy from the dog lot, yelling, "Hey, who's that walkin' down my road?" As my children run to greet him, I smile and kick up a dust in the dry July heat.

Leslie Bray Evans
Walnut Cove
EnergyUnited member

Lessons on Second Avenue

In 1997, I began a mile walk on Second Avenue in Gastonia. The walk became a journey down memory lane.

My old school had been demolished. The only thing left was the playground and a thousand memories. I remember the day I hit a ball over the fence, through the neighbor's window. The window was repaired, but we never recovered the ball.

There were happy days and uncertain times, too. It was the 1940s and World War II. The largest mill in the state stood in the next block. It produced materials used in the war and was a known enemy target. This plant was the heartbeat of Gastonia at that time. It's closed now and stands there like a sleeping giant.

A company playground was across the road. One day an oversized bully was there mistreating the smaller kids. I told him to leave them alone. He said, "I will see you later," and he did. He taught me two lessons that day: Doing the right thing can have consequences, and silence is golden.

Second Avenue

James H. King
Gastonia
Rutherford EMC member

Your roads are my roads

I have heard it said that when one's ability is lost or changed, another ability could compensate. Since experiencing changes in physical mobility, I think that my creative imagination and intuition are becoming stronger. I moved here a few years ago after some very serious surgery. Since then, getting around and driving are real challenges.

Experience reveals that we are all full of stories, no matter our physical age. I'm full of a few good ones myself. And I love to listen. That is how I am traveling down the roads of my new home state. And the finest one is just around the bend of the next story and then the next.

When people hear that I'm not a native, the storytelling begins. Most folks have a road story. One lane, wooded, gravel, asphalt -- they're in there somewhere. Even the road not taken. I ask about them and listen for them, because I'm home a lot, and the speaker does the traveling. And then I travel in mind, intuitively sensing the experience.

The finest North Carolina road I've been down is the one somewhere in your story. So start talking. I'm listening.

Rev. Tovaa Steckull
Asheboro
Randolph EMC member

The "Desert Light"

The Four Mile Desert Road in Perquimans County is where my grandparents lived. It was a desolate road without any curves, forest on both sides and the blackest dirt you ever saw, which stuck like glue, so my mother said.

Because it was part of the Dismal Swamp, it made an excellent outdoor classroom for us children. The biggest rattlesnakes in the world, as well as black bear, crossed that road. This isolated, straight road was also a great place for young drivers to learn how to drive since there were very few cars venturing down it.

At night, however, the place came alive with "courting folks" there on the pretense of getting a glance of the "Desert Light." Old folks said it was a ghost looking for her head. And scientists said it was only phosphate gasses from the swamp. But between you and me, it was we kids running across the road with a lantern!

We played in the dirt, drawing houses complete with furniture. We built toad houses over our bare feet, and looked for animal tracks until an occasional car drove by and destroyed our artwork. During the hot summer we waded in the deep ditches looking for tadpoles and crawfish.

Now the road is paved, the forest has been replaced by utility lines and poles and farms. Not as many rattlesnakes or animal tracks, but to me it's still the finest road in North Carolina.

Alice Elliott Spivey
Elizabeth City
Elizabeth City Electric

A smooth gravel road

In 1948 we moved to a sparsely settled community in Northampton County. We lived on a dirt road. Maybe I should call it a mud road.

We owned a used 1936 V-8 Ford Coupe with the shiny chrome bumpers on the front and back. Its gearshift was a simple straight rod with a round ball on the top. I soon learned to "feel" my way into the correct gear. Or at least, I thought I did.

During the rainy season, the mud took on the look of brown pancake batter. When I would hit a deep hole that caused the axle to sink, I would shift to first gear. After a few months of this, the back end started spewing considerable blue smoke. Funny noises kept protesting under the hood. I think I must have straightened the crankshaft. It drank oil faster than Sherman went through Atlanta.

In 1950, the Department of Transportation must have been overcome by a twinge of compassion. They came along to gravel and smooth the mud monster. We bought another car, a used 1948 Ford. Every time I drove on that nice gravel road, I knew it was the finest road that I'd ever been down. I could do 45 mph without shifting.

At times in my mind, I can hear the gravel crunching as it sends an upside down hailstorm underneath the fenders. Since we moved away, the urge overpowers me and I ride down that road again. It has a black top now, but the "feeling" is still there of when that nice, new gravel road stretched out to me like a lighthouse in a fog.

Doris Britton
Rich Square
Roanoke Electric Cooperative member

All of them

I traveled throughout North Carolina for over 12 years, servicing medical equipment in hospitals, clinics and private residences. The freedom that I enjoyed with my job allowed me to travel many a road that would have otherwise been missed in our hurry-up world. There's a lot to see once you get off the interstate.

I once traveled from Manteo to Murphy on Highway 64 so I could see the scenery, the towns and the people. I wandered along the Blue Ridge Parkway from Balsam to Low Gap one fall weekend and saw Mother Nature's artistic talents at work. From Oriental, I decided to take Highway 306 south and catch the Minnesott Ferry on my way to Havelock. Two days later, I was in 18 inches of snow at Banner Elk, wishing I'd packed a heavier coat.

From Cerro Gordo to Baldenboro, Highway 242 is really dark at night. I got lost on this highway one night on my way home from Grandma's house.

There's a neat little train-car-turned-ice-cream-stand in Ellerbe that serves the best peach ice cream on Highway 220. You'll find mirrors adorning the highway from Boone to Valle Crucis so that you can see what's around the curve.

Outside of East Bend is the Low Water Bridge at Rockford. It won't be there much longer, so if you haven't seen it, you should. There's probably not a more scenic ride than the one down Highway 12 as it meanders across our Outer Banks. No matter the weather or the season, it's always beautiful there.

I feel that the finest road in North Carolina, however, isn't just one road, it's all of them, because all of them lead me back to where I began, back to where my heart is, back home.

Gerry Hardee
Sandy-Ridge
EnergyUnited member

The lessons of Tatum Gap Road

It stretches like a sleepy snake between Andrews and Robbinsville, climbing higher, coiling tighter, and merging past into present every inch of its way.

It's Tatum Gap Road. The first time I ever traveled down it, it proudly displayed for me its autumn coat of many colors.

My sister and I stopped at the side of the road to take some pictures, and I found myself imagining what it must have been like, way back when. I could almost see the covered wagons traveling over the same ground we were treading on and hear the voices of the weary settlers as they gathered around the campfires to share stories with those they love and store up energy for the next day. Then they'd venture ever farther into North Carolina's virgin wilderness, their hearts filled with high hopes and fragile dreams.

There's a plaque just under the top telling a sadder story, about the road's involvement in the Cherokee Tribe's Trail of Tears. I read it and cried for the ones who lost their lives in that long, grueling march.

Why must we realize our dreams as a nation at the expense of someone else's pride and wellbeing? There is an abundance of space in this great land of ours, even now, in these times of bulldozers and land developments. Yet we've always sacrificed the weaker parts to build a stronger whole. It seems to me that if we'd strive to make the weaker stronger instead of seeking to eliminate them altogether, we'd make our nation stronger.

Standing there in the dusk, watching the sun hide itself beyond the ridge, I felt blessed by the vision the Lord had granted me that day. I've learned that as long as I value where I'm coming from, I'll find where I'm going, with God's help, one day at a time.

Rebecca R. Owenby
West End
Pee Dee EMC member

Send us your stories and photos. Earn $50.

When they choose a selection for publication, judges seem to like stories that are clearly expressed, from the heart, and full of North Carolina character. (Most of those we receive have some or all of these qualities, so choosing a few is difficult work.)

The Rules

1. Approximately 200 words or less.
2. Only one entry per household per month.
3. Typed or e-mail, if possible. Otherwise, make it legible.
4. Include your name, mailing address, electric co-op, and phone number.
5. If you want your entry returned, please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope. *(We will not return others.)*
6. We pay $50 for each submission published in this series.
7. Send to Nothing Finer, Carolina Country, 3400 Sumner Blvd., Raleigh, NC 27616. Or by e-mail: carolina.country@ncemcs.com

The 1999 Themes

July
The Finest Safety Lesson I Ever Learned
This can help others.
Deadline: May 15

August
The Finest School Teacher I Ever Knew Any school.
Deadline: June 15

September
The Best Story About a Country Fair
Where was it and what happened?
Deadline: July 15

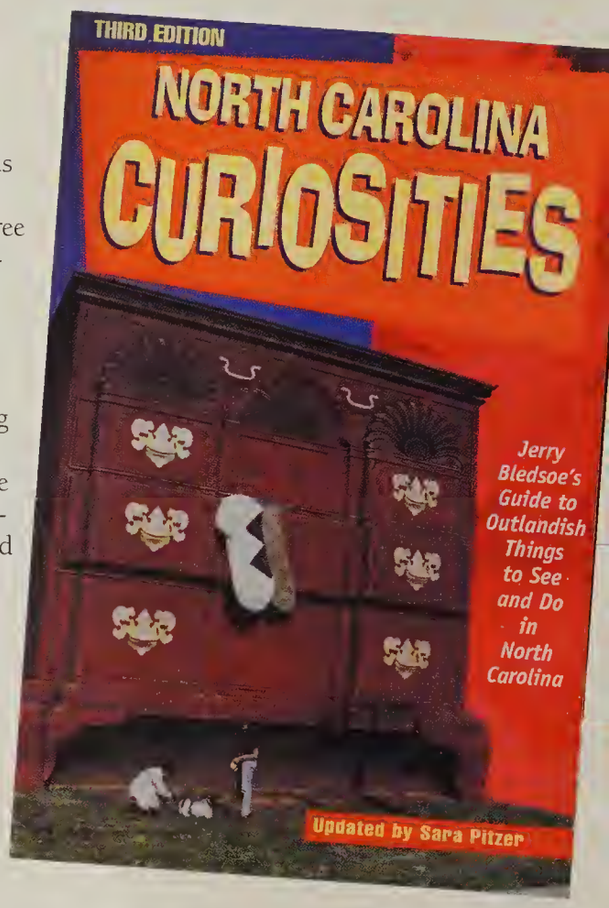
October
The Finest North Carolina Photo
N.C. people or place, color or B&W.
Deadline: August 15

November
My Favorite Holiday Memory Any holiday
Deadline: Sept. 15

December
What We Can Do in 2000?
Your advice for the new year
Deadline: Oct. 15

Outlandish

An updated travel guide to North Carolina's curiosities


THIRD EDITION
NORTH CAROLINA
CURIOSITIES
Jerry Bledsoe's Guide to Outlandish Things to See and Do in North Carolina
Updated by Sara Pitzer

Jerry Bledsoe's guide to North Carolina's offbeat, oddball attractions has been updated for 1999 by The Globe Pequot Press.

The third edition of "North Carolina Curiosities," updated by North Carolina travel writer Sara Pitzer, is a 225-page guide to esoteric museums, interesting places, crazy collections, whacky events and more of "America's Only" or "World's Largest" attractions than you ever knew existed in our state.

Some examples:

• The town of Erwin is the home of "the world largest and smallest pair of blue jeans." If you don't wear a pair of jeans on Denim Day, you can be locked up in a mock jail.

• The last of eight "Shell Stations" —gas stations that look like a seashell to promote Shell Oil's product —remains at the corner of Sprague and Peachtree streets in Winston-Salem.

• The world's largest weeping willow tree – 97 feet high with a 24-foot trunk circumference -- is on a dairy farm in Buncombe County.

• A museum near Coleridge in Randolph County contains Louis Cox's amazing collection of advertising thermometers.

Jerry Bledsoe is a columnist for the Greensboro News & Record, a publisher (Down Home Press in Asheboro) and best-selling author.

"North Carolina Curiosities" also contains 30 photographs and three maps. It is available at bookstores in softcover for $10.95. Contact Globe Pequot Press at P.O. Box 833, Old Saybrook, CT 06475.
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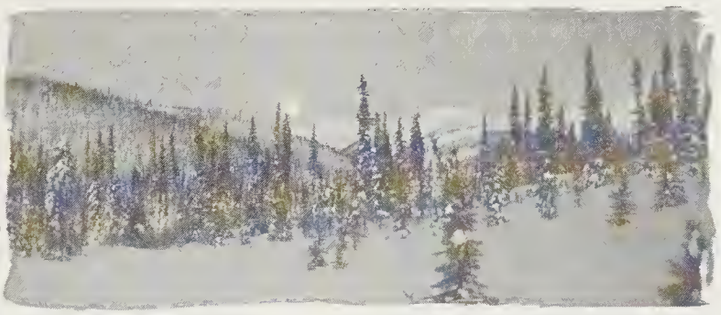

Read letters from "country neighbors" who live next door—and in the wilds of Alaska!

I'm hooked! Your magazine is a true gem! My only question is, where have you been all my life? The other magazines with "country" in the name have lots of pretty pictures, but no depth or purpose other than shallow entertainment. I'm *completely* mesmerized by each issue of COUNTRYSIDE I get, and cannot put it down! It's the most-read magazine I've *ever* had. I even read all the ads! Cover to cover, you're the best.—*Cheryl, Pa*

Really enjoy your magazine. It's like having a houseful of friendly neighbors in for the afternoon.

Being 73 years old, of course I lived through the big Depression. My folks had always practiced frugal ways, having been brought up that way, so it wasn't as hard for them as for some. I find many of the same money-saving hints we used then (and I still do) but also quite a number of new ones. We never get too old to learn.—*Ruth S., Idaho*

I continue to enjoy this magazine. Fascinating people, ideas, opinions, observations and hopes, as well as information and practical advice abound.—*Harland C., Maryland*

Thank you for 17 years of COUNTRYSIDE. We love it and the reasons for it!—*Mrs. G.H., NY*

Okay—you got me! And I'm glad! I sent for a sample issue, mailed back the invoice with "No thanks" written across it, and *then* read the magazine... cover to cover, every word, including the advertising, and decided I *need* this magazine. I had no idea there were so many people who felt the way I do.—*Carol S., Ohio*

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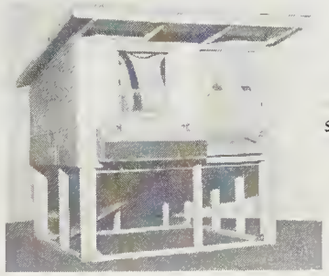

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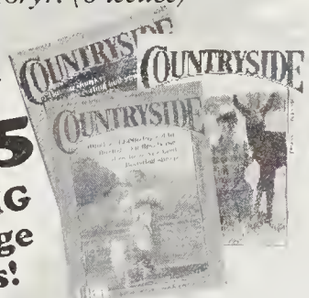

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PLEASE NOTE: Articles listed here have already appeared in print, and not all back issues are available — another good reason not to miss any more!

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Compiled by Renee Gannon

Festivities across the state

Coast

Greene County celebrates 200 years

On April 30-May 2, Greene County citizens will celebrate the county's 200th anniversary. Festivities begin at 4 p.m. on April 30 with a motorcade through Snow Hill, the county seat. Music and speeches will be held at the Courthouse Square. Governor James B. Hunt Jr. will address the crowd and help unveil the Bicentennial Plaza. A gala dance featuring the Dorsey Brothers Orchestra and the Platters is planned that evening at National Guard Armory in Snow Hill.

On May 1, family day begins at 3 p.m. at the Greene Central High School Athletic Complex. Entertainment, a "village of yesteryear" and barbecue will be available. Fireworks ends the evening. A countywide prayer service of renewal and rededication will be held May 2 at the Ag-Fest Park in Snow Hill.

For more information on the anniversary celebration, contact the Greene County Bicentennial Commission at (252) 747-1999.

Fossil Festival comes to Aurora

Visitors can search for fossils and tour a mine site at the Fossil Festival in Aurora May 29-30. Mining material, filled with fossils, is brought from the nearby phosphate mine and deposited in designated spots throughout the festival area. Bus tours of the PCS mine begin at 12 noon both days. A parade is scheduled at 11 a.m. on May 29, featuring the U.S. Marine Band.

The festival also features food, arts, crafts, street dance, fossil displays from local and world sites, lectures at the Aurora Fossil Museum, a carnival, games and entertainment.

Call (252) 322-4238 or (252) 322-4727. Inquiries may also be e-mailed to cbholliday@cconnect.net, or visit the Web site at www.southfest.com.

Comparing shark teeth fossils in the Smithsonian Institute's exhibit at the Fossil Festival.

Photo by Helen Sommerkamp.

Spring Heritage Weekend in Perquimans County

Preservation North Carolina and Perquimans County Restoration Association are sponsoring the Perquimans County Spring Heritage Weekend May 21-23. The festivities also feature a Perquimans County Historic Home Tour.

Founded in 1668, Perquimans County is home to some of the state's most significant historic structures. More than 18 homes and historic buildings are included on the self-guided tour. On May 21, visitors are welcome to attend the Pig-Out in Perquimans, which includes dinner and music on the Courthouse Green in downtown Hertford that evening, and on May 22, an evening garden party will be held at Riverside Plantation.

Call the office of Preservation North Carolina at (252) 482-7455.

Piedmont

Buggy Festival rolls into Carthage

The 11th annual Carthage Buggy Festival runs May 2, 8-9 on the Court House Square in Carthage. An open golf tournament at Little River Farm Golf Course will be held on May 2. A Golf Shootout, with a prize of $10,000 for a hole-in-one is scheduled the evening of May 8.

The Buggy Festival features music, dance, food, a classic car show, an air show, and of course, buggies of all sizes and ages. Vendors, clowns, buggy rides, train rides and children's activities go throughout the day, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. A fireworks display is scheduled for the evening of May 8. A second air show will be held from 1-3 p.m. on May 9.

Except for a small admission fee to the air shows, the festival is free of charge. Call (910) 947-2331.

Contemporary abstract art at the N.C. Museum of Art

The exhibit "Sign and Gesture: Contemporary Abstract Art from The Haskell Collection," is on display at the North Carolina Museum of Art through June 13.

The collection explores the various approaches to abstraction practiced by artists such as Sam Francis, Helen Frankenthaler, Al Held, Robert Motherwell, Gerhard Richter and Frank Stella. Also featured are graphic works by Richard Diebenkorn, Jasper Johns and Roy Lichtenstein.

The N.C. Museum of Art is located at 2110 Blue Ridge Road in Raleigh. Admission is free. Call (919) 839-6262.

Ancient Egypt comes to life in Charlotte

Beginning May 1, visitors to Discovery Place can experience the "Mysteries of Egypt" at the museum's IMAX Dome screen. The movie stars Omar Sharif and Kate Maberly, who reveal the story of Egyptian civilization. Viewers have a birds-eye view of pyramids, the Nile River, and burial chambers hidden below the desert, all on a five-story-tall movie screen. The movie also recreates the construction of the pyramids as well as the ritual involved in preparing a pharaoh's body for eternal life. The movie is the first large-format film co-produced by National Geographic Films and Destination Cinema. The film's photography can be seen on the Web site www.nationalgeographic.com.

Discovery Place is located in uptown Charlotte. Call (704) 372-6261, or visit the Web site www.discoveryplace.org.

Mountains

Lake Eden Arts Festival set for Memorial Weekend

More than 5,000 visitors from across the state are expected at Camp Rockmont in Black Mountain to experience the Lake Eden Arts Festival. The three-day weekend includes more than 150 performers on four stages performing a variety of musical styles, including bluegrass, swing, Cajun, blues, waltz, folk and international sound. The festival will also feature a juried art fair, poetry reading, storytelling, pony rides and a variety of dancing. The camp offers swimming, canoeing, hiking, tennis, cabins for rent and camping sites.

Cost for the full weekend plus camping is $70 in advance. Day tickets are $15-$25, with children 10 and under free. Call LEAF at (828) 68-MUSIC, or visit the Web site www.theLEAF.com.

Carl Sandburg Folk & Poetry Festival

Folk music was an important part of poet Carl Sanburg's life and writings. On May 31, the Carl Sandburg Folk & Poetry Festival will be held on the grounds of Sandburg's home, a National Historic Site in Flat Rock. The day will feature folk music instrumentalists, storytelling, dancing, poetry reading, folk ballads and spiritual songs.

Call (828) 693-4178.

"Unto These Hills" opens its 50th season

The dramatic story of the Cherokee and the Trail of Tears, "Unto These Hills," opens June 11 for its 50th season. The outdoor play runs though August 21. Since it opened in 1950, more than five million people have seen the drama that covers 300 years of Cherokee history, the tribe's first encounter with the Spanish to the infamous Trail of Tears in the 1800s to the establishment of a Reservation in western North Carolina.

Call (828) 497-2111.

Grandfather Reflection

By Egidio Antonaccio

This new oil painting by Egidio Antonaccio shows a view of Grandfather Mountain that the artist sees near where he has lived for 18 years. A native of Italy and graduate of the Academy of Fine Arts in Florence, he recently opened Antonaccio Fine Art, a gallery in Foscoe. Much of his work shows scenes of western North Carolina.

"Grandfather Reflection" is a 250 limited edition, giclee reproduction, available in a 24 by 36-inch size on canvas. Each reproduction is hand-touched. For a brochure, contact Antonaccio Fine Art, Hwy. 105 South 10360, Banner Elk, NC 28604. Phone: (828) 963-5611.

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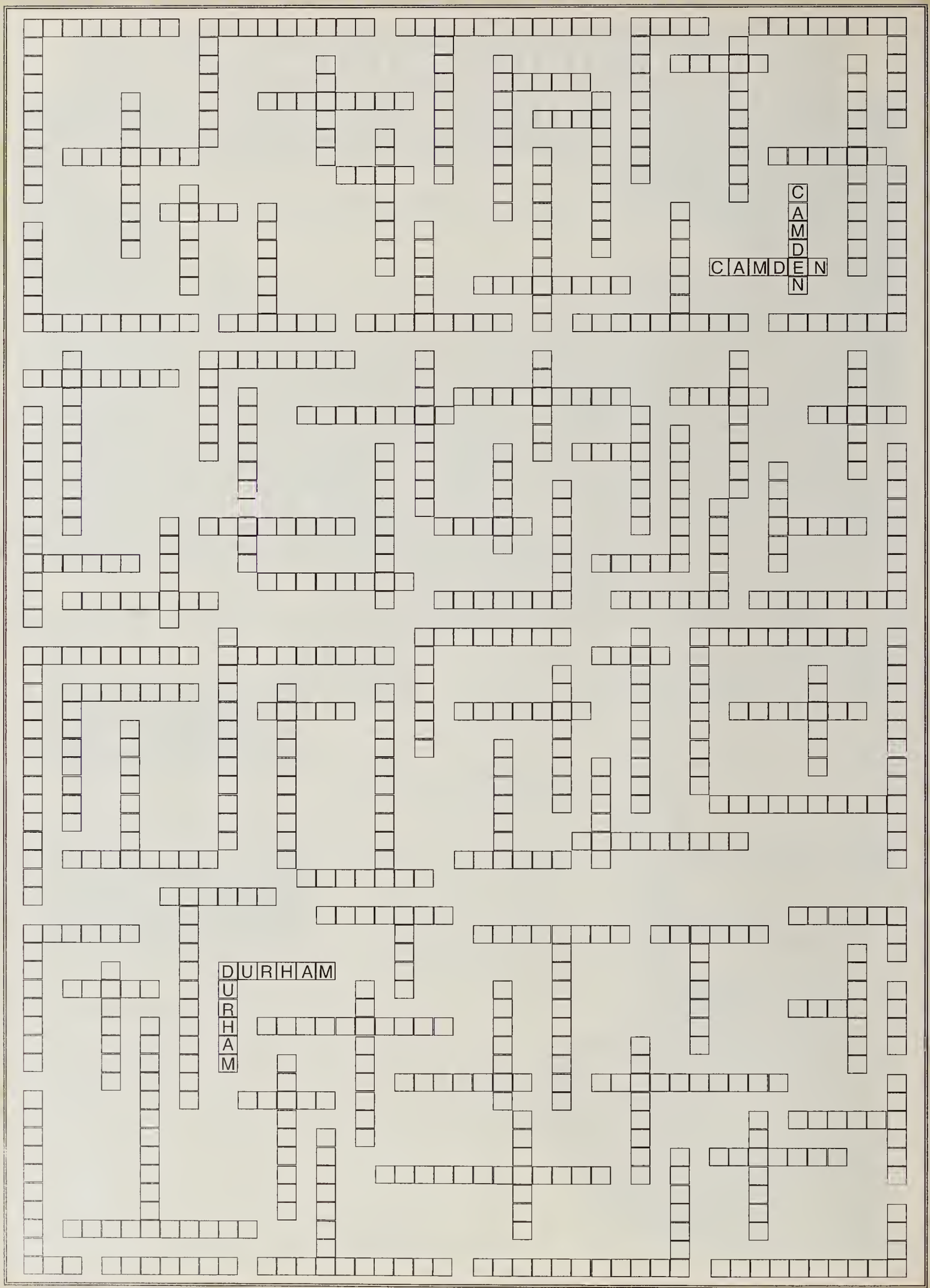
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The Great North Carolina County - County Seat Criss-Cross Puzzle

© 1999 by Charles Joyner

Each of the 72 counties listed below is crossed or intersected by its county seat on the grid on the facing page. Can you put them in their places? Print the name of each county horizontally and the name of its county seat vertically. Each county seat is listed opposite its county.

County	County Seat
12 Letters	
Transylvania	Brevard
11 Letters	
Mecklenburg	Charlotte
Northampton	Jackson
10 Letters	
Cumberland	Fayetteville
Montgomery	Troy
Perquimans	Hertford
Rockingham	Wentworth
Rutherford	Rutherfordton
Washington	Plymouth
New Hanover	Wilmington
9 Letters	
Alexander	Taylorsville
Alleghany	Sparta
Brunswick	Bolivia
Cleveland	Shelby
Currituck	Currituck
Edgecombe	Tarboro
Granville	Oxford
Henderson	Hendersonville
8 Letters	
Alamance	Graham
Beaufort	Washington
Buncombe	Asheville
Cabarrus	Concord
Caldwell	Lenoir
Carteret	Beaufort
Cherokee	Murphy
Columbus	Whiteville
Davidson	Lexington
Franklin	Louisburg
Guilford	Greensboro
Hertford	Winton
Johnston	Smithfield
McDowell	Marion
Richmond	Rockinghom

County	County Seat
7 Letters	
Coswell	Yanceyville
Catawba	Newton
Chatham	Pittsboro
Holifox	Holifax
Jackson	Sylva
Madison	Marshall
Pomlico	Bayboro
Robeson	Lumberton
Sampson	Clinton
Tyrrell	Columbia
6 Letters	
Bertie	Windsor
~~Camden~~	~~Camden~~
Craven	New Bern
~~Durham~~	~~Durham~~
Gaston	Gastonia
Graham	Robbinsville
Lenoir	Kinston
Onslow	Jacksonville
Orange	Hillsborough
Pender	Burgaw
Person	Roxboro
Wilson	Wilson
5 Letters	
Anson	Wodesboro
Avery	Newland
Burke	Morganton
Gates	Gatesville
Jones	Trenton
Macon	Franklin
Moore	Carthage
Rowan	Salisbury
Surry	Dobson
Union	Monroe
4 Letters	
Ashe	Jefferson
Clay	Hayesville
Dare	Manteo
Hoke	Raeford
Nash	Noshville
Polk	Columbus
Wake	Raleigh

Answers are on page 64

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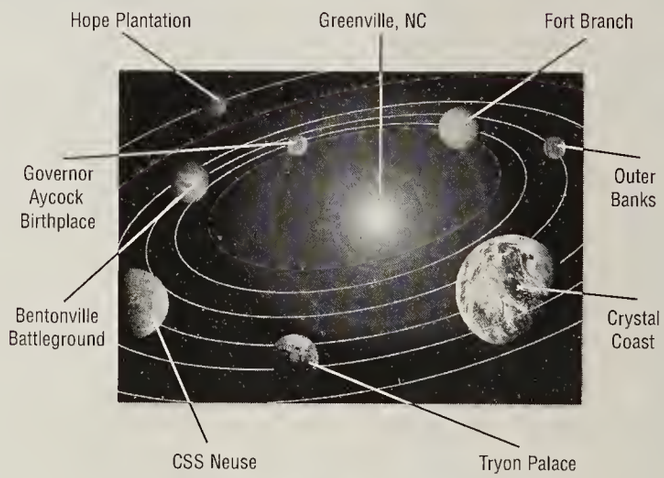

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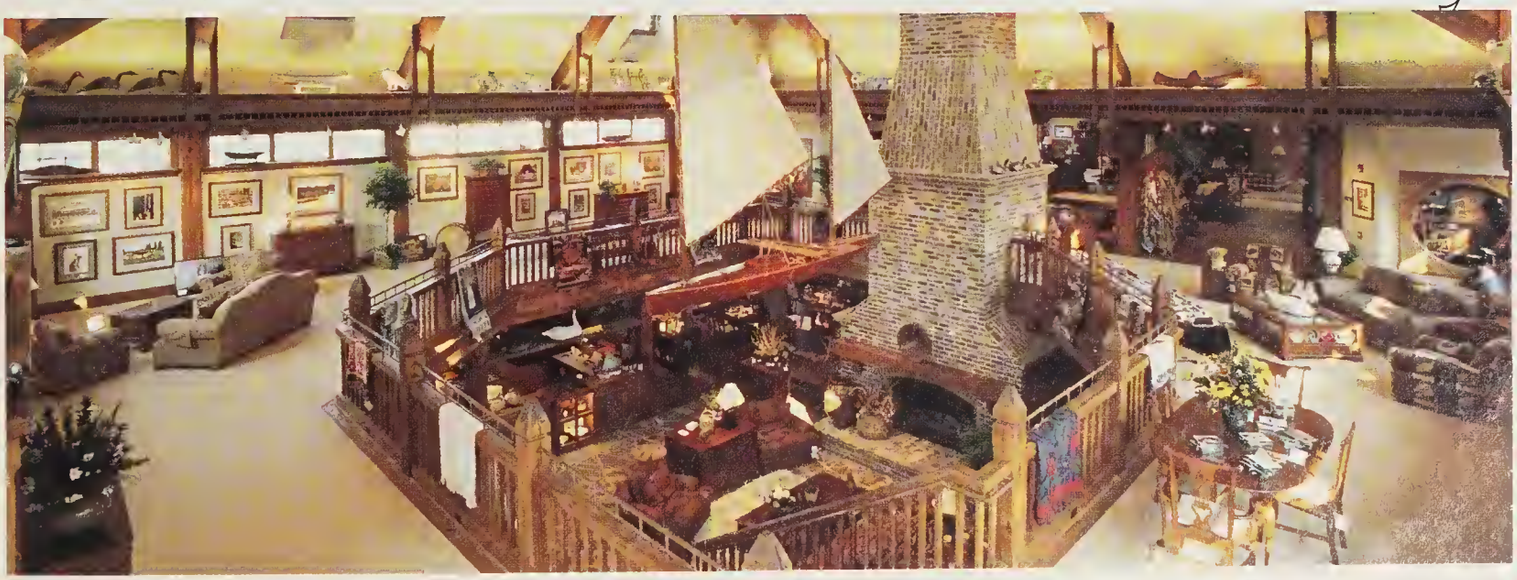
Advertiser 7

Advertiser 8

THE

Bob Timberlake Gallery



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Advertiser 9

Advertiser 10

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Advertiser 23

Advertiser 24

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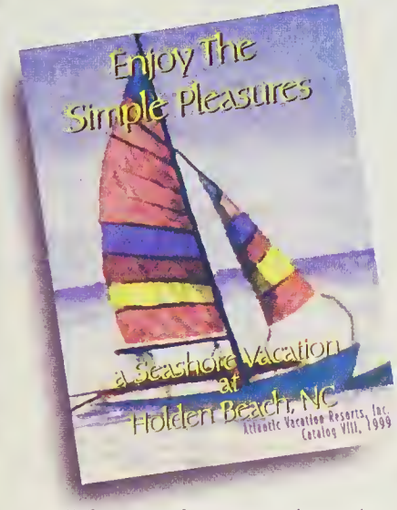

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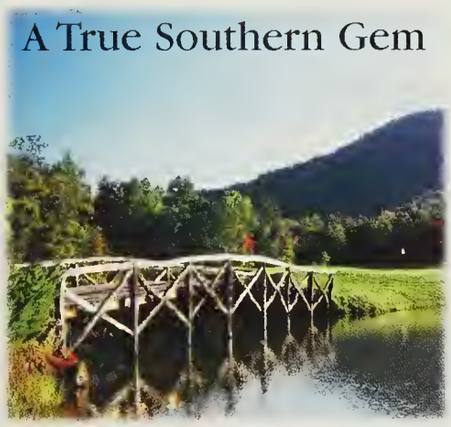

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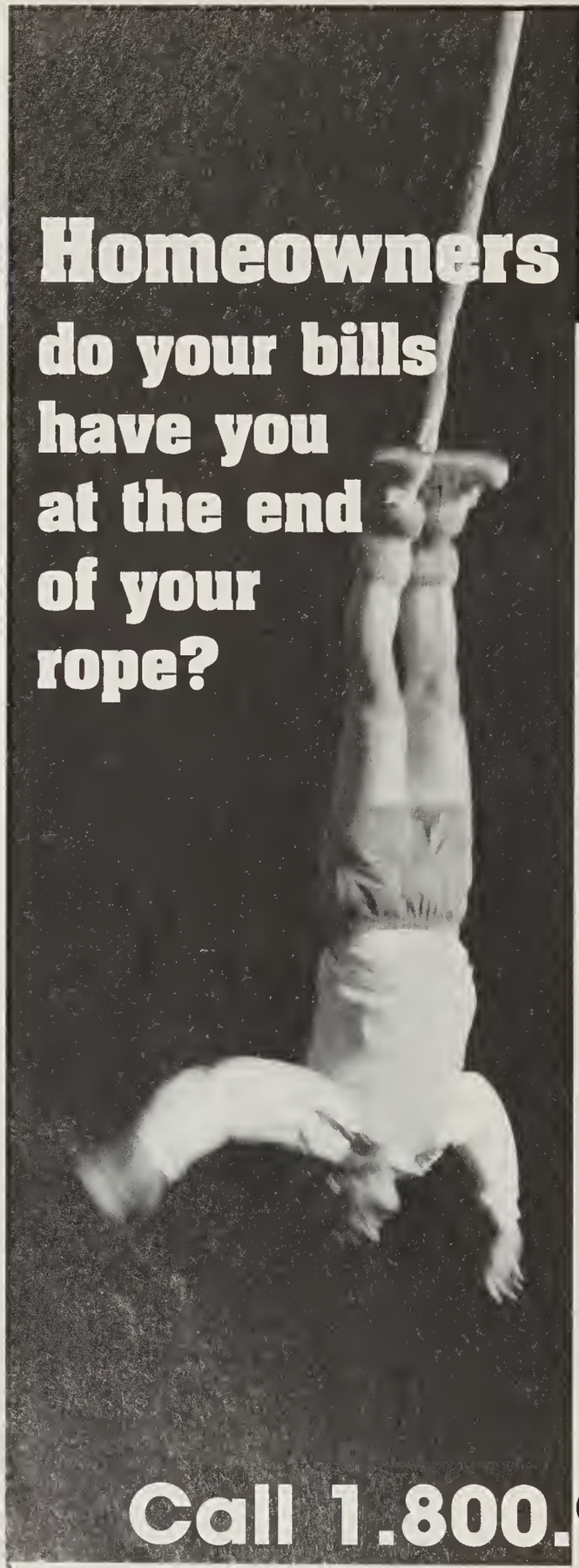

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Some of us get up every day and go out into this country to make a living. All of us go out into this country from time to time for the pure pleasure of seeing it.

Recognizing the value of our state's countryside, North Carolina's Department of Transportation has developed the Scenic Byways program "to give visitors and residents a chance to experience a bit of North Carolina history, geography and culture while raising awareness for the protection and preservation of these treasures." (The treasures, of course, include the state's 27 electric cooperatives.) The DOT's Board of Transportation has designated 44 Scenic Byways statewide, each marked by a distinctive roadside sign. Most of the routes traverse electric cooperative service areas.

The selection of Scenic Byways routes published on the following pages is reprinted from the official guide with permission of the DOT. We are especially grateful to Scenic Byways coordinator Bob Kopetsky.

For a copy of the new 144-page "NC Scenic Byways" guidebook, which contains all 44 routes and other travel information, send $5 to Scenic Byway Program, NC Dept. of Transportation, P.O. Box 25201, Raleigh, NC 27611.

—MG

Lafayette's Tour

173 miles
4 hours driving time

Vance, Warren, Halifax, Northampton, Hertford, Gates and Pasquotank counties

Electric cooperative service area: Halifax EMC, Roanoke Electric Cooperative and Albemarle EMC

This byway takes motorists through several of the communities that General Lafayette visited on his 1825 tour of this country. This is one of North Carolina's richest historical areas.

Exit off U.S. 1 Bypass, outside of Henderson in Vance County, onto Warrenton Road (S.R. 1001). Along the way, notice that North Carolina's early development was not bound by political boundaries as explorers and settlers from Virginia and North Carolina crossed the present state line to share culture and trade. In many cases, this part of North Carolina and the southern part of Virginia, are identical in economy, architecture and regional dialect.

It is 11 miles from the U.S. 1 interchange to Warrenton. Although the secondary road number remains 1001, the road name changes to Dr. King Boulevard at the Warren County line. At the intersection of Dr. King Boulevard and Main Street (U.S. 401) turn left.

Warrenton, named for Joseph Warren, a soldier killed in the Battle of Bunker Hill, is the Warren County seat. Enjoy views of historic antebellum houses while driving through the town, or enjoy a pleasant stroll on the courthouse grounds. General Lafayette stayed at a plantation south of town between his speeches in Halifax and Raleigh.

Warrenton was home to many famous people, including Horace Greeley (journalist), the Bragg brothers (politicians and soldiers) and John A. Hyman, (North Carolina's first black congressman). One block later, turn right at the courthouse onto Macon Street (N.C. 58/43). Remain on N.C. 43 when the routes split about four miles later at the community of Liberia. Follow N.C. 43 for about 11 miles across rolling hills to Essex. Incorporated in 1891, Essex was the center of a free Negro settlement prior to the Civil War. Descendants of some of the original families still live here.

Make a sharp left turn onto N.C. 561 East from N.C. 43. Follow this route for seven miles to the community of Brinkleyville. To reach Medoc Mountain State Park, turn right onto N.C. 4/48 and follow the signs. Medoc Mountain, a high hill on the Little Fishing Creek, was named for the vineyard established there in the late 1800s by Sidney Weller. He introduced to America a system of grape culture and named his vineyard after the wine-producing area of Medoc, France. Medoc Mountain is an elongated ridge, the ancient granite core of a mountain

Scenic Byways of North Carolina

range formed in the Paleozoic era. The state park offers camping and hiking areas.

Continue along N.C. 561 East for nine miles, crossing I-95 near the community of Beaverdam located on the Beaverdam Swamp. From Beaverdam, settled in 1770, it is 7.5 miles to the stop sign at U.S. 301 Business. Turn left to venture into Halifax , a half-mile north. Now a state historic site, Halifax was at one time a colonial seat of the State Assembly. Laid out in 1757, Halifax was named for George Montagu, the Second Earl of Halifax, who helped expand colonial commerce in his position as the President of the Board of Trade and Plantations. Lafayette spoke here on February 27, 1825. The Resolves of Halifax were signed here in 1776 as one of the first actions taken by a colony for independence. Several historic buildings (see photo on page 35) are part of the tour in Halifax.

After touring Halifax, backtrack south on U.S. 301/N.C. 903/125 for about three miles and turn left onto N.C. 125/903. About 4.5 miles from this intersection is the community of Crowells Crossroads, settled by Edward and Joseph Crowell in 1730. Stories say that these men, relatives of Oliver Cromwell, escaped during the English Reformation by dropping the 'm' from their name.

Follow N.C. 125/903 southeast to Scotland Neck for another 10 miles. Scotland Neck is in an area first settled by Scotsmen in 1722. From the intersection of N.C. 125/903 and U.S. 258 in downtown Scotland Neck, turn left. Follow U.S. 258 North for six miles to the Roanoke River. The C.S.S. Ram Albemarle was built near here and outfitted in Halifax with machinery and guns. As an early trade route, the Roanoke River valley is home to many colonial plantations.

Stay on U.S. 258/N.C. 561 over the Roanoke River 6.5 miles to Rich Square; settled by Virginia Quakers in 1750 and named for its fertile soil.

Continue on N.C. 561 for 10.4 miles to St. John, passing through Eagletown, an early Quaker settlement. St. John was settled around 1722 and was known as Douglas Ordinary for a tavern there. At the large white church at the intersection, turn left onto Menola St. John Road (S.R. 1141) then right 1.5 miles later onto Flea Hill Road (S.R. 1142) after crossing the Cutawhiskie Swamp. The Cutawhiskie Swamp and the Potecasi Creek, located three miles further north, flow into the Chowan River basin to the east. Turn right 2.8 miles later onto Woodland Road (S.R. 1160) which becomes Benthall Bridge Road (S.R. 1160) about one mile further north after you cross Potecasi Creek. Continue four miles north into Murfreesboro.

Settled in the early 1700s, Murfreesboro was first known as Murfrees Landing in 1707 for the family who owned the land on which the town was built. The nearby landing on the Meherrin River was called Murfrees Ferry in 1770 and by 1787 was called Murfreesboro. Murfreesboro has a notable historic district to the north of Main Street. General Lafayette, for whom Fayetteville is named, stayed in Murfreesboro on February 26, 1825. Famous former citizens include Dr. Walter Reed, head of the U.S. Yellow Fever Commission in Cuba who discovered a cure for the disease; Richard J. Gatling, who invented the gatling gun and agricultural tools; and John W. Wheeler, minister to Nicaragua and State Treasurer in the mid-19th century.

Turn right on Main Street and follow it to the U.S. 258/N.C. 11 stoplight. Follow U.S. 258 North across the Meherrin River for 2.7 miles to Barrets Crossroads. Turn left onto Statesville Road (S.R. 1310). About four miles later turn right onto Foushee Railey Road (S.R. 1315) and right again two miles later onto Buckhorn Church Road (S.R. 1316) at Britts Store community. Follow Buckhorn Church Road for two miles into the community of Como. Named for Lake Como, Italy, the town was established in 1883. Turn right onto U.S. 258. Look closely for old plantation houses while traveling south along this short stretch.

Take a left turn onto Parker Ferry Road (S.R. 1306) to travel one mile south through Union Camp Paper Company's pulp forest to the Parkers Island Cable Ferry.

NOTE: Recreational vehicles are too large for the ferry and should continue south along U.S. 258 to U.S. 158 and follow U.S. 158 to Winton.

Take the Parkers Island Cable Ferry, which has operated across the Meherrin River near its junction with the Chowan River since the early 1900s. Across the river the unpaved road picks up as Parkers Fishery Road (S.R. 1175) for another 1.5 miles before the intersection with U.S. 158.

At the junction with U.S. 158, turn left. One mile later turn left again onto U.S. 13/158 crossing the Chowan River at Winton. Built on the land of Benjamin Wynns in 1766, Winton was burned to the ground in 1862 by Union forces. Chowan Academy, one of the earliest schools for Negroes, was founded in 1886 by C. S. Brown in Winton. The Chowan River, named for the Chowanoc Indians, was explored around 1585 by Ralph Lane and in 1622 by explorers from Jamestown. It was a major trade access route for residents of the northeastern corner of the state.

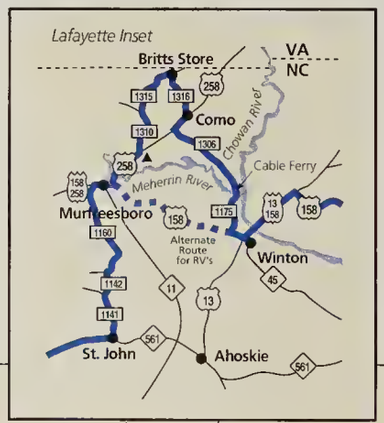
Travel into Gates County for three miles then turn right to follow N.C. 137 East to Gatesville. Settled in the 1700s, Gatesville, was first called Bennetts Creek Landing when it became the county seat in 1779. From Gatesville, follow N.C. 37 South for three miles before turning left onto Mill Pond Road (S.R. 1400). Follow this road north to Merchants Millpond State Park. If you stop at the park in warm weather, wear lots of insect repellent – mosquitoes are abundant. Veer to the right on Pond Road (S.R. 1403) to Easons Crossroads Community.

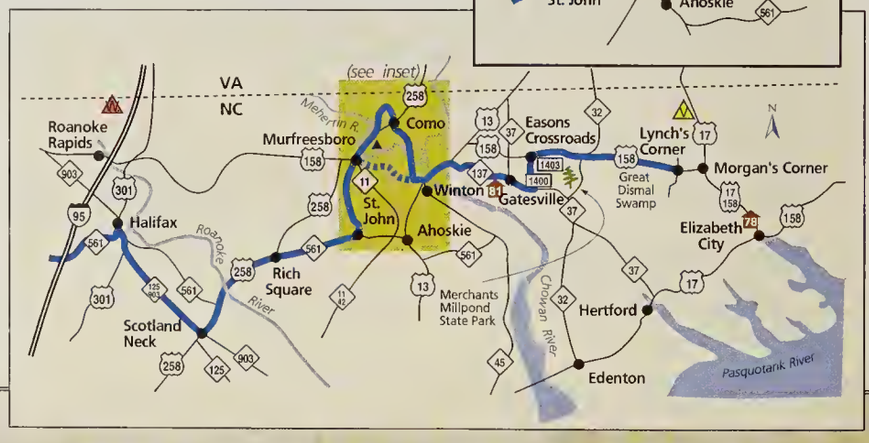
Turn right onto U.S. 158 following the Lassiter Swamp that feeds Merchants Millpond into the Great Dismal Swamp. Thought to be more than 9,000 years old, the Great Dismal Swamp has decreased in size since the arrival of Europeans because of drainage and logging. This forested wetland was shown on maps as early as 1647 and is made of a 210,000-acre area of marsh, lake and cypress swamp. It was first called the Dismal Swamp in 1715. In 1763, George Washington surveyed this area for a canal to drain part of the swamp for lumbering.

The route ends 16 miles later in Lynch's Corner in Pasquotank County at the intersection of Lynches Corner Road (S.R. 1356) and U.S. 158, four miles west of Morgans Corner and U.S. 17. A Civil War battle was held at the Great Dismal Swamp Canal locks near South Mills when Confederate forces were prevented from blowing up the locks to keep Union supplies from coming down the canal.

From Morgans Corner it is an easy drive to the North Carolina Outer Banks or to Portsmouth, Virginia.

For more information about this area and the Outer Banks, visit the Dismal Swamp Canal Welcome Center, just three miles south of the Virginia border on U.S. 17 in South Mills.





Pamlico

127 miles
3 hours driving time

Beaufort, Hyde and Dare counties

Electric cooperative service area: Tideland EMC

Pamlico was the name of an Indian tribe who once lived in the area. The Pamlico River extends for 33 miles from Washington to the sound. The Pamlico Sound is 80 miles long and 15 to 30 miles wide and has a maximum depth of 21 feet. The sound drains water through the Ocracoke and Oregon inlets from the Albemarle Sound and the Neuse and Pamlico rivers to the Atlantic Ocean.

Tour the Washington riverfront, then head east on N.C. 32 for 5.6 miles to the Broad Creek Bridge and intersection with (Harvey Road) S.R. 1331. Turn right and continue across farmlands four miles to the intersection with N.C. 92 and U.S. 264 at the community of Jessema. Follow N.C. 92 for nearly six miles to Bath.

Settled in 1690 and incorporated in 1705, Bath is the oldest incorporated town in North Carolina. Virginians and French Protestants settled the area around Bath when the town was called the Town of Pamticoe (an early version of Pamlico). Bath is the home of the oldest church in North Carolina, St. Thomas Church, built in 1734 (photo this page.) Royal Governor Charles Eden had a provincial capital at Bath while Edward Teach, better known as Blackbeard, lived on nearby Plum Point. Bath is a state historic site with several restored buildings open to the public.

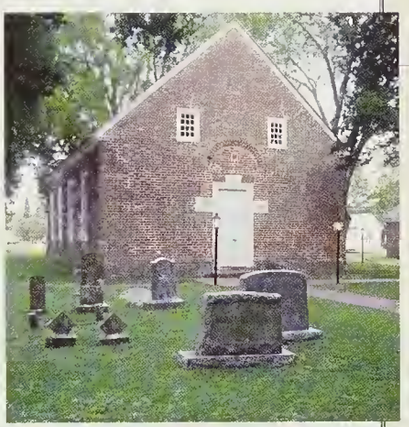
After touring Bath, cross Back Creek and continue along N.C. 92 for about five miles to the intersection with N.C. 306 where it becomes N.C. 99. From here the road turns north to skirt Jackson Swamp to the northwest and the Pungo River to the east. Follow N.C. 99 for seven miles to the bridge at Pungo Creek. The creek and the river both derive their names from Machapunga, an Indian name given them as early as 1733.

At the traffic light in Belhaven, turn right to follow U.S. 264 Business through town. Located on the site of an Indian village called Aquascogoc, Belhaven, settled in 1890, derives its name from the French words meaning beautiful harbor. The town is a major stopping point for boats traveling the Intracoastal Waterway. Join U.S. 264 and continue east for about 5.5 miles to the Pungo River Bridge at the community of Leechville. Continue for another 4.5 miles to the Intracoastal Waterway bridge which presents an impressive view of the waterway for miles to the northeast.

Continue along U.S. 264/N.C. 45 for four miles to Scranton, named for a lumber mill owner who came from Scranton, Pa. Just past Scranton enjoy an unusual stretch of road where drainage canals and trees on either side form a unique and protective seven-mile tunnel with views of vast fields and tree farms on either side. While passing through the community of Rose Bay, travel parallel to the Swan Quarter National Wildlife Refuge, which covers the Pamlico Sound coast around the Swan Quarter area.

Turn right, 2.5 miles after Rose Bay, onto N.C. 45 and follow it into the town of Swan Quarter. Settled before 1836, it is the Hyde County seat and a fishing community. Continue through town on N.C. 45 to reach the Swan Quarter-Ocracoke Ferry. From here you can get to the Outer Banks (make sure to reserve your place on the ferry ahead of time.)

Continue this route leaving town by way of Main St. (S.R. 1129) which leads back to U.S. 264. The farms on either side of the road are on lands reclaimed by draining the surrounding swamps. This is now illegal, because the swamps are an important part of the natural cycles to clean water for both humans and the animals.



Continue east on U.S. 264, but be cautious of the elbow curves at Swindell Fork about one mile from S.R. 1129 and another two miles further. At the second curve the road begins to follow the southern shoreline of Lake Mattamuskeet, a natural freshwater lake of about 30,000 acres discovered in 1585. Its name is derived from the Indian word for "moving swamp" or "shallow lake" (and appropriately so since it is only five feet deep).

Farther along U.S. 264 is Lake Landing and the state's largest rural historic district. Watch closely for older buildings all along this stretch. Look carefully to the right for the octagonal house, also known as the Ink Bottle House. In addition to the historical aspects of this section, you'll see vast farmlands that attract numerous hunting clubs. Between the communities of New Holland and Lake Landing you will be able to see Lake Mattamuskeet to the left. The community of New Holland, settled in 1910, was named for the development company that tried to drain Lake Mattamuskeet.

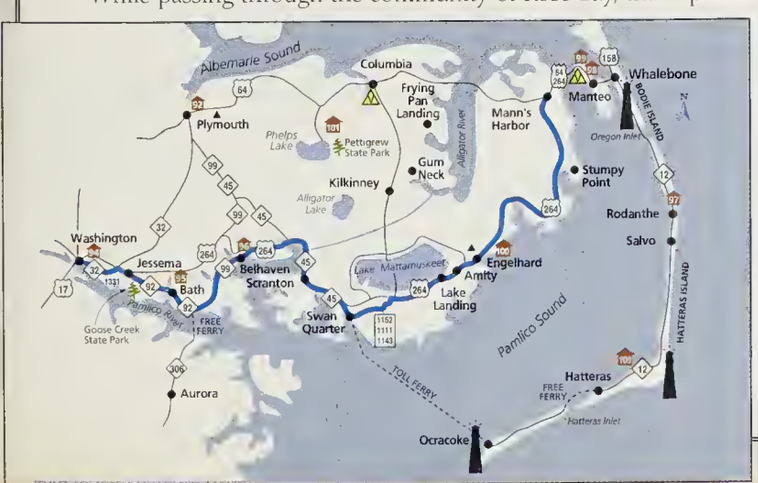
Watch for another sharp curve near the community of Amity on U.S. 264, about four miles east of Lake Landing. From here the road turns away from the lake's shore. It is one mile to the village of Engelhard, located on Far Creek. Engelhard was first named Far Creek Landing. In 1874, Engelhard was given its current name in honor of the publisher of the Wilmington newspaper.

Need a restroom, food or fuel? Engelhard is the last stop until Manns Harbor, about 40 miles away.

As you leave Engelhard, look to the east to see the Pamlico Sound. Continue on U.S. 264 through the wetlands and maritime forests of the Alligator River National Wildlife refuge. From the Far Creek bridge it is 11.5 miles to the Dare and Hyde County line. From the county line it is 13 miles to Stumpy Point Bay and the fishing village of Stumpy Point. Founded in 1733, the village is about two miles from U.S. 264. A major portion of the commercial fishing fleet that comes through Oregon Inlet is based here (the rest are based in Wanchese on Roanoke Island). The U.S. 64 intersection with U.S. 264 is another 13 miles from Stumpy Point.

Note the nearby U.S. Army and Navy bombing ranges along U.S. 264. Also, be sure to watch for the rare red wolves. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service is reintroducing the wolves to Alligator River Wildlife Refuge. The yellow flashing light at the intersection of U.S. 64/264 marks the end of this scenic byway.

For more historical and recreational attractions, visit nearby Roanoke Island and the Outer Banks.

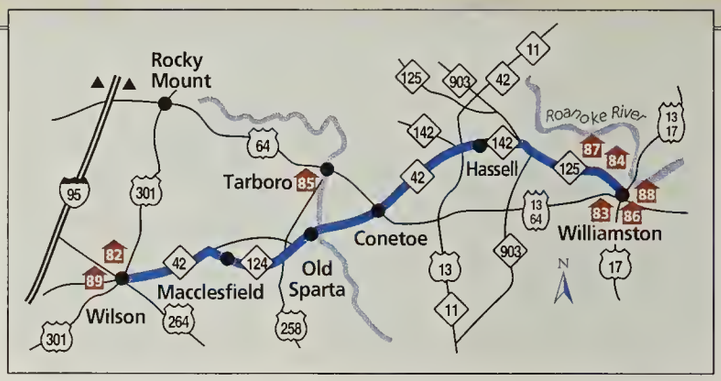


Tar Heel Trace

53 miles
1 hour driving time

Wilson, Edgecombe and Martin counties

Electric cooperative service area: Edgecombe-Martin County EMC and Pitt & Greene EMC



The route takes its name from the pine tar industry that once thrived in this portion of the state. "Tar Heel" is the nickname given to the state's residents by British General Cornwallis' troops after they emerged from the nearby Tar River with tar stuck to their boots. Another story says the ground alongside many of the state's riverfronts was covered with tar that spilled from rafts bringing the product to market.

Pine trees are found in great quantities all over North Carolina, in particular the eastern region. Early residents found that it was simple to cut these trees and pile the light or fat wood into piles and cover them with soil after setting them on fire. The piles, called tar kilns, were then left to smolder causing the pine resin to run out as a dark tar. Tar was used extensively in the shipping industry. The tar was distilled into turpentine and was used to waterproof rope and wood in the form of either pitch or tar. This area also is known for its tobacco farms.

From the N.C. 42 and U.S. 301 interchange east of Wilson in Wilson County, follow this scenic byway across the coastal plain to Williamston through North Carolina's tar producing counties. Hickory Grove, established in 1803, and Toisnot Depot, founded in 1840 when a rail line was built, merged in 1849 to form the town of Wilson. The new town was named for Louis D. Wilson, a resident who was killed during the war with Mexico.

This byway begins in the midst of the Toisnot Swamp, some of which has been filled for development. From the beginning of the route it is nine miles to the Wilson and Edgecombe County line. Pass through the communities of Wilbanks and Bridgesville, both of which were established at the turn of the century. Three-tenths of a mile from the county line turn right onto N.C. 124.

Follow N.C. 124 for 3.5 miles to the town of Macclesfield. Incorporated in 1901, Macclesfield was named for the town in England from which the ancestors of the town's founder had come.

Cross Bynum Mill Creek as you leave town and continue east for 5.5 miles crossing U.S. 258 before reaching the intersection of N.C. 124 with N.C. 42.

Turn right onto N.C. 42. Follow it for two miles to Old Sparta, established in 1830 and incorporated in 1876. Cross the Tar River immediately after passing through Old Sparta. Stories have it that the river was named for the tar that was produced in the counties through which it flowed, while others suggest that the river's name is from an Indian word.

Continue on N.C. 42 for almost six miles passing through vast farms to the town of Conetoe. Conetoe (pronounced Cuh-knee-ta), was incorporated in 1887 and named for the nearby Conetoe Creek. Continue on N.C. 42, across U.S. 64, for about eight miles to the Martin and Edgecombe County line. Again you will pass through vast fields, most of which produce soybeans and peanuts.

Continue for almost 2.5 miles to the N.C. 42/142 intersection with N.C. 11. Go straight at the stop sign and follow N.C. 142 for 2.5 miles to the community of Hassell. Settled in 1878, Hassell was known as Dogville Crossroads until 1903. Continue on N.C. 142 through Hassell for another 3.5 miles to the intersection of N.C. 142 with N.C. 125. From Hassell to Williamston the road crosses land drained by the Conoho Creek, a tributary to the Roanoke River located to the north.

Turn right at the stop sign onto N.C. 125 and continue for nine miles to the Williamston city limits in Martin County where the route ends. Notice the numerous peanut sheds and silos along this portion of the route. Peanuts are the region's main crop. Williamston, named in honor of Colonel William Williams who fought in the Revolutionary War, is located on the Roanoke River. Settled in 1779, the town originally was called Skewarky for the plantation lands owned by Thomas Hunter on which it was built. Follow N.C. 125 through town to the U.S. 64/17 intersection.

Devil's Stompin' Grounds

34 miles
40 minutes driving time

Chatham, Randolph and Moore counties

Electric cooperative service area: Central EMC and Randolph EMC

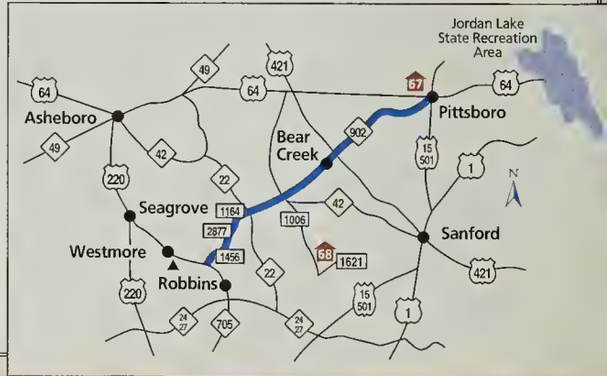
This route extends from the Chatham County courthouse in Pittsboro through farmlands and forests of the lower Piedmont across N.C. 22 and ends at N.C. 705 north of Robbins in Moore County.

From the Pittsboro Courthouse, follow U.S. 64 West and turn left at the traffic light onto N.C. 902. Travel by Round Top Mountain across Rocky River and through an area known as "Devil's Stompin' Grounds."

The legend behind the name begins with a tale of a worn, circular path in a local clearing. The path, the old-timers say, is worn from the devils pacing and plotting new forms of evil to afflict the good in the world. Ask a local resident for specific directions to the "Stompin' Grounds."

Also at this point the byway passes 10 miles north of the House in the Horseshoe State Historic Site (or Alston House). Built in the 1770s, the house was the site of a Revolutionary War skirmish between the Whigs and the Tories.

Continue across N.C. 22 as N.C. 902 becomes Jerry Frye Road (S.R. 1164), one mile after crossing into Randolph County. Turn left on Howard Mill Road (S.R. 2877) and continue for two miles before passing into Moore County. The road number changes to S.R. 1456 at the county line. The route ends three miles later at the junction with N.C. 705.



Indian Heritage Trail

18 miles
35 minutes driving time

Richmond and Montgomery counties

Electric cooperative service area: Pee Dee EMC and Randolph EMC

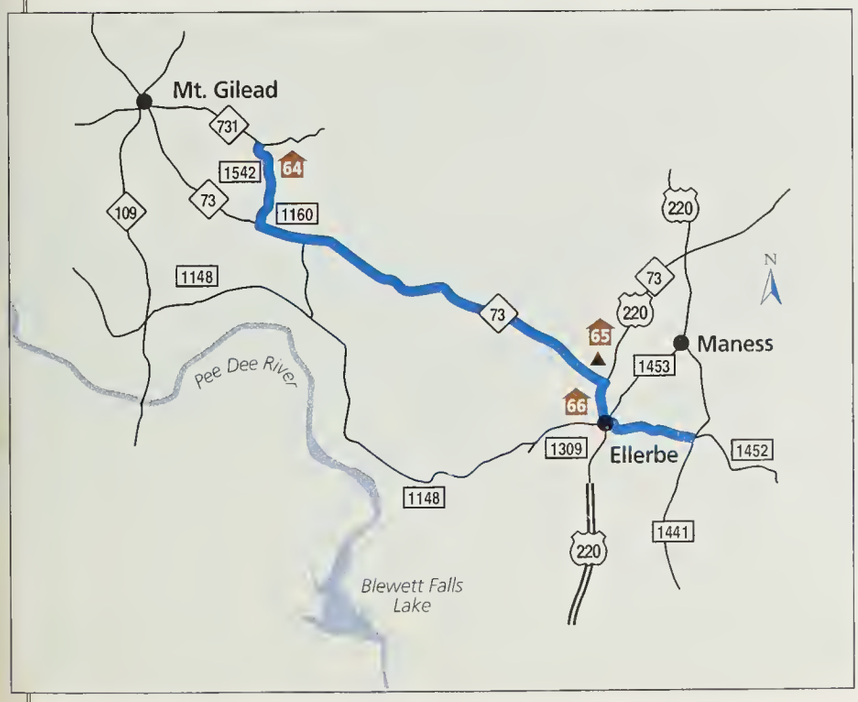
Enter the town of Ellerbe in Richmond County from the east on Millstone Road (S.R. 1452) to begin the Indian Heritage Trail. The area that was once known as the "Fair Grounds" was named Ellerbe after W. T. Ellerbe developed the nearby recreational and health facility, Ellerbe Springs.

In Ellerbe, turn right (north) onto Church Street (U.S. 220) to follow the byway. Visit the Rankin Museum of American Heritage by continuing straight across the intersection. It is two blocks down on the left. This artifact museum has one of the state's most extensive Native American collections.

Head out of town through North Carolina's prime peach-growing region, complete with several roadside fruit and vegetable stands (in season). At 1.2 miles, take a left onto N.C. 73. An NCDOT rest area sits on the right and picnic tables are available. Historic Ellerbe Springs Inn and Restaurant, home of a once-famous mineral springs resort and spa, is located one half-mile on U.S. 220. Continue 11.4 miles on N.C. 73 through the piedmont heartland and pass by the farm of one-time professional wrestler and legend, "Andre the Giant."

Make a right onto Indian Mound Road (S.R. 1160) and cross into Montgomery County where the route number changes to S.R. 1542. At 1.5 miles on the right is Town Creek Indian Mound (pictured above), the oldest North Carolina State Historic Site. This archeological site was an important ceremonial center for the Creek Indians of the Pee Dee culture some 300 to 400 years ago.

Visitors can tour the reconstructed temples and see exhibits. The byway ends where Indian Mound Road intersects with N.C. 731, just east of Mt. Gilead.



Grassy Island Crossing

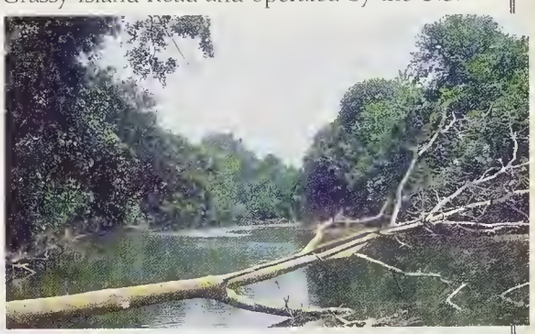
26 miles
40 minutes driving time

Anson and Richmond counties

Electric cooperative service area: Pee Dee EMC

Named for the Grassy Islands, a group of earthen masses in the Pee Dee River north of Blewett Falls Lake. The byway begins on Pinkston River Road (S.R. 1627) in Anson County at the crossover with U.S. 52. Head south through the pines, hardwoods, swamps and farms along the banks of the Pee Dee River until the 4.8-mile mark, at which you'll take a left onto Grassy Island Road (S.R. 1634).

Visitors may choose to visit the Pee Dee National Wildlife Refuge located on Grassy Island Road and operated by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. The Pee Dee Refuge, the only inland wildlife refuge in North Carolina, features a self-guided auto or hiking trail along a migratory bird habitat. A waterfowl observation blind allows for up-close viewing of bird species native to or passing through the region. The refuge office and visitor center are located on U.S. 52, three miles south of Ansonville. A trail will lead you to the observation/photo blind.



Farther along Grassy Island Road, turn left onto N.C. 109 (after 4.6 miles). One mile more and you'll cross the Pee Dee River, formed by the junction of the Yadkin and Uwharrie Rivers in Montgomery County. Flowing south along the Anson County line and into South Carolina, the Pee Dee empties into the intercoastal Winyah Bay.

On the opposite side of the river, two-and a-half miles into Richmond County, turn right onto another Grassy Island Road (S.R. 1148). This 13-mile stretch of road features the geological transition between the lowland piedmont region to the Uwharrie Mountain expanse. Blewett Falls Lake, operated by Carolina Power and Light, lies to the south and west. There are boat ramps and fishing access points on the lake. The byway ends northwest of Rockingham at the intersection with Holly Grove Church Road (S.R. 1146).

Rolling Kansas

9 miles
20 minutes drive time

Stanly County

Electric cooperative service area: Union EMC

This byway passes through an area known as Rolling Kansas, so nicknamed because of its hilly terrain and turn-of-the-century farms and windmills. Begin on Bear Creek Church Road (S.R. 1428) where it enters Stanly County from Cabarrus County. Nearby is Bethel Bear Creek United Church of Christ and its graveyard, which has tombstones dating back to the 1820s and is among the oldest cemeteries in the county. Continue along Bear Creek Church Road across a one-lane bridge and into Rolling Kansas. At 3.3 miles take a left onto Millingport Road (S.R. 1134) and head six miles along this wavering countryside road with panoramic views of the western piedmont. The byway ends in the town of Richfield at the intersection with U.S. 52.

South Mountains

33 miles
45 minutes driving time

Cleveland, Rutherford and McDowell counties

Electric cooperative service area: Rutherford EMC

For a transitional drive from the Piedmont to the mountains, take N.C. 226 from the community of Metcalf (about 3.5 miles northwest of Shelby) to Marion. The city of Shelby was named for Isaac Shelby, a Revolutionary War Commander. Cleveland County was formed in 1841 and named for Benjamin Cleaveland, a hero of the Battle at Kings Mountain.

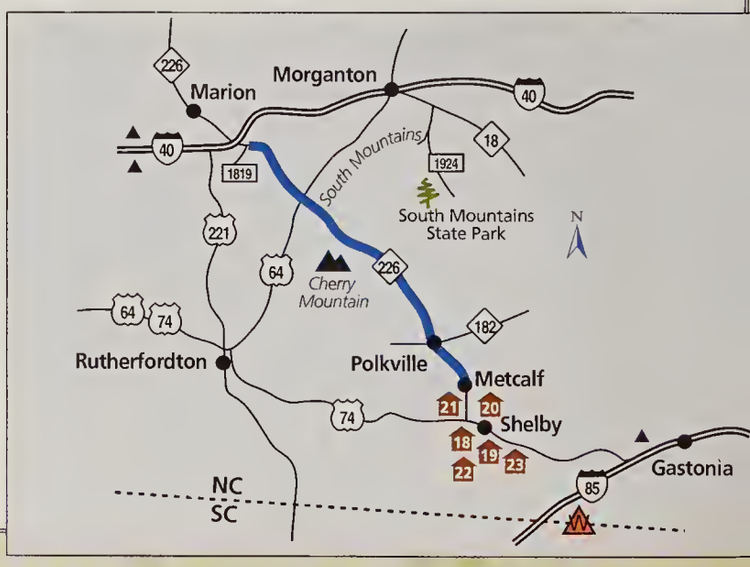
Around the community of Polkville, located in the First Broad River valley, look for glimpses of the South Mountains ahead to the right. Along the way, enjoy the upper piedmont farmlands and spectacular views of the mountains. Corn and apples are some of the crops that may be seen from the road. This part of the route is in Rutherford County. Formed in 1779, the county was named for Griffith Rutherford, a member of the Provincial Congress and a Revolutionary War general. As you pass into Rutherford County, Cherry Mountain lies to the southwest. After the Civil War, liquor and 'cherry bounce' (produced from local cherry trees) were brewed here.

The South Mountains are an isolated range located in Burke, Rutherford and Cleveland counties. The Cherokee Indians called them the "Oakanoahs." South Mountains State Park (pictured above) and the South Mountain Wildlife Management Area may provide an interesting side trip. The park is 16 miles south of Morganton on Old N.C. 18 (S.R. 1924). Both are located in Burke County.

Pass through the Dysartsville community, named for the family who settled this area.

While driving the last 10 miles towards Marion, you will begin to catch glimpses of North Carolina's Appalachian Mountains. The route ends at the intersection with S.R. 1819, one-tenth mile before I-40 and south of the city of Marion.

Marion was named for South Carolina's Francis Marion, a farmer and Revolutionary War general. McDowell County, formed in 1842, was named for Joseph McDowell, who fought at Kings Mountain and was a member of Congress.



Hanging Rock

38 miles
1 hour driving time

Stokes and Surry counties

Electric cooperative service area: EnergyUnited and Surry-Yadkin EMC

From U.S. 52 follow N.C. 65 North from Winston-Salem. Drive towards Rural Hall through an area settled by Germans after the Revolutionary War. At the intersection of N.C. 65 and 66, turn left and follow N.C. 66 North to Mt. Olive. The byway begins where Denny Road (S.R. 2000) intersects N.C. 66.

Follow N.C. 66 for about 4.5 miles to the community of Gap, where the road forks. On the way, pass through the community of Mt. Olive, named for a local church (not to be confused with Mount Olive in Wayne County).

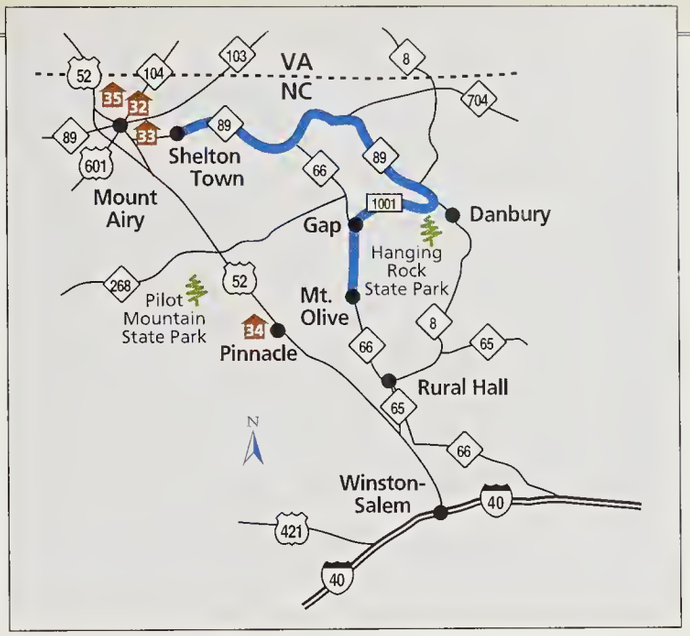
Follow the right fork, Moore's Springs Road (S.R. 1001), just northwest of Hanging Rock State Park. For an interesting side trip, travel into the 6,192-acre park or to the lookout tower for a wonderful panoramic view of the area. The park is named for an unusual natural quartzite outcrop that is a part of the ancient Sauratown Mountains.

Geologists will be interested in deposits of itacolumite, a flexible sandstone found only here and in Brazil. Also in the park are the Cascade Falls, which has a double drop of 200 feet in the upper cascade and 60 feet in the lower cascade. The falls were discovered by Lewis David Von Schweinitz, a Moravian mycologist and botanist. Look for Tory's Den, a cave below the Moores Knob bank, said to have been occupied by Tories (colonists loyal to the king) during the Revolutionary War.

Continue on S.R. 1001 past Moores Springs to N.C. 89 West. Turn right to venture into Danbury (listed in the National Register of Historic Places) for a peek at an upper piedmont/mountain town. Founded in 1849, Danbury is located on the Dan River at the foot of the Sauratown Mountains. It was named for North Carolina Gov. Alexander Martin's plantation that was in nearby Rockingham County. The community originally was an Indian village that became a trading post called Crawford. Before the Civil War a major iron foundry was located here. North Carolina's tribute block in the Washington Monument came from a quarry near here.

Return to the byway following N.C. 89 West through the Sauratown Mountains. Named for the Saura Indians who once inhabited the area, these mountains are some of the oldest mountains in North America. The route ends at McBride Road (S.R. 1742) in the Shelton Town community east of Mount Airy. Mount Airy is home of Andy Griffith's fictional Mayberry.

A sheet granite quarry is located on the northeast side of town. This granite was used in the Wright Memorial monument at Kill Devil Hills on the Outer Banks. Nearby attractions include Pilot Mountain State Park and the Blue Ridge Parkway. Pilot Mountain



is an isolated peak, a quartzite monadnock remnant from the erosion of the Sauratown Mountains. It was once called "Mt. Ararat," from which the Ararat River flows. The closest access to the Blue Ridge Parkway is about 15 miles north of Mount Airy at Fancy Gap, Va.

Pacolet River

10 miles
20 minutes driving time

Polk county

Electric cooperative service area: Rutherford EMC

The Pacolet River byway begins at the South Carolina state line and traces U.S. 176 through the Tryon Thermal Belt, an unusual microclimate area ordinarily free of dew and frost. This valley road crosses the Pacolet River several times and parallels the Saluda Grade, the steepest mainline railroad grade in the United States. Old railroad depots, log cabins, an old vaudeville/movie theater and several other historic buildings can be seen in the towns of Saluda and Tryon. Pearson's Falls Natural Heritage Site, near Saluda, is a 259-acre botanical garden wonderland where you may hike, watch birds or picnic. The byway ends where U.S. 176 crosses High Bridge at the Henderson County border. You may travel on from here to Hendersonville or Flat Rock (location of the Carl Sandburg National Historic Site and Flat Rock Playhouse.)

New River Valley

35 miles
1.25 hours driving time

Watauga and Ashe counties

Electric cooperative service area: Blue Ridge Electric

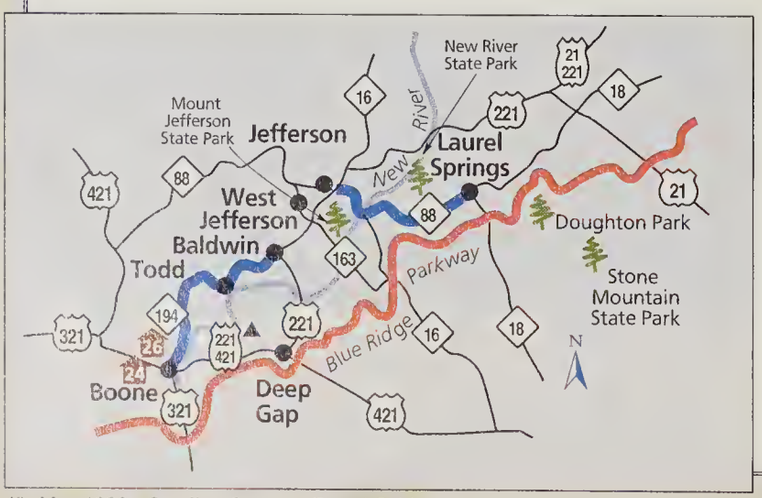
See some of the most beautiful mountain scenery and the largest concentration of Christmas tree farms in the state while traveling north from Boone to Laurel Springs through the Stone Mountains in the New River Valley. These mountains form a common boundary with North Carolina and Tennessee.

The route begins at the intersection of N.C. 194 and U.S. 421/221 in Boone. The town is named for Daniel Boone who camped in this area. Boone is the Watauga County seat and home to Appalachian State University.

This road winds as it crosses mountains and passes over rivers and streams through the New River Valley. The New River is North America's oldest north-flowing river and the only large one in the United States. It is estimated that only the Nile River is older. The North Fork, which rises in northern Watauga County, and the South Fork, which rises near Boone, flow to Ashe County where they join to form the New River.

Follow N.C. 194 over what had been called the "Old Buffalo Trail" for the migration path of buffalo herds. The area between Boone and Todd is the site of the only Revolutionary War military engagement in Watauga County. Todd lies at the junction of Big Elk Creek and the South Fork of the New River. Settled in the mid-1800s, it was a bustling logging community until the mid-1930s. Be sure to look for the Todd General Store to the right while passing through town.

The route temporarily ends at the intersection of U.S. 221 and N.C. 194 in Baldwin. Continue toward West Jefferson and Jefferson on U.S. 221 North. Cheese lovers will want to visit the cheese factory in downtown West Jefferson. It is the only cheese factory in the state and is located one-half block southeast of Main Street on Fourth Street. Tours are available during business hours. Settled in 1803, Jefferson was named for then president Thomas Jefferson.



The scenic byway resumes at the N.C. 16/88 intersection to the east of the Jefferson city limits. Follow N.C. 88 to Laurel Springs, passing through a popular canoeing and whitewater rafting area. Travel through the community of Ore Knob, chartered in 1875 and named for the booming copper ore mine. The scenic byway ends at the intersection of N.C. 18 and 88 in Laurel Springs about 2.5 miles from the Blue Ridge Parkway. Laurel Springs was settled in 1859 and named for the nearby spring flowing from laurel covered rocks.

Nearby attractions include the Blue Ridge Parkway, Mt. Jefferson State Park, New River State Park and Doughton Park. Doughton Park, the largest recreational area along the parkway, was named in honor of North Carolina Congressman Robert L. Doughton who worked to establish the Blue Ridge Parkway. Brinegars Cabin, built in 1880, is located within the park and is accessible from the Blue Ridge Parkway.

For a copy of the new 144-page "NC Scenic Byways" guidebook, which contains 44 routes and other travel information, send $5 to Scenic Byway Program, NC Dept. of Transportation, P.O. Box 25201, Raleigh, NC 27611.

Adopt-A-Highway

Since its inception, the Adopt-A-Highway program has grown to be one of the largest anti-litter organizations in the nation. More than 6,000 volunteer groups have adopted about 13,000 miles of state-maintained roads. These volunteers are committed to keeping the state's roadways clean, scenic and environmentally sound.

To learn how you can organize an Adopt-A-Highway volunteer group, call the N.C. Department of Transportation's Office of Beautification Programs at (800) 331-5864.

Bicycles & Pedestrians

North Carolina has an extensive system of mapped and signed bicycle routes designated along lightly-traveled, scenic country roads. This system of cross-state, regional and local routes totals more than 3,000 miles of "bicycling highways." Designed to provide alternatives to the busy major roads, these routes connect the state's towns and cities as well as parks, recreational areas and other points of interest. Routes are signed to alert motorists to the potential presence of bicyclists.

For maps and more information, contact the N.C. Department of Transportation's Office of Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation, P.O. Box 25201, Raleigh, NC 27611. (919) 733-2804. Web site: www.dot.state.nc.us/transit/bicycle

This issue of "See North Carolina" is brought to you by the 1.7 million people of North Carolina's electric cooperatives. As Touchstone Energy® partners, we embody the power of human connections in all regions of our state. We believe that any place in North Carolina shows as much enterprise and promise as another.

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Carolina Curiosities	From "North Carolina Curiosities" © 1999 by Jerry Bledsoe (see page 22). Used with permission.

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See North Carolina

A 1999 Touring Guide

The Albemarle

Surrounding the sound, this area is the cradle of North Carolina's civilization. Our gracious and faithful soul was born here.

The stately towns of Windsor, Hamilton, Murfreesboro, Edenton, Hertford and Elizabeth City rose during the heady days when trade flourished between Virginia and the waterways to the ocean, and plantations spread over the lyrically named river plains: Pasquotank, Perquimans, Chowan, Roanoke.

Respect for their heritage led Albemarle communities to maintain some of the finest examples of 18th and 19th century civilization in the state. A tour of the region is rewarded with an abundance of preserved and pretty places. In each you can learn about inspired politics: the Halifax Resolves, the Edenton Tea Party, John Harvey's vision, David Stone's leadership, the magnificence of Somerset Plantation, and the steadfast honor portrayed at Plymouth and Fort Branch.

From the north, the dominant Great Dismal Swamp is the wellspring of the region's culture and enterprise. Today its Intracoastal Waterway brings boaters to the Albemarle.

And in between is a countryside of enduring peacefulness planted by Quakers who blessed its early years and nurtured now by communities who tend carefully their churches, yards and fields. Beauty, peace and quiet rise virtually everywhere, as though they define real civilization after all.

Historic Murfreesboro

Travel Information

Ahoskie. (252) 332-2042.
Camden County Manager. (252) 338-1919.
Dismal Swamp Canal Welcome Center. (252) 771-8333. www.icw~net.com/DSCwelcome
Edenton-Chowan. (252) 482-3400/ (800) 775-0111.
Elizabeth City Area Chamber of Commerce. (252) 335-4365. www.elizcity.com
Gates County Manager. (252) 357-1240.
Greater Tyrrell County. (252) 796-1996.
Hertford County Economic Development. (252) 358-7805.
Historic Albemarle Tour. (252) 926-2950 / (800) 734-1117. www.albemarle-nc.com/hat
Martin County Chamber of Commerce. (252) 792-4131.
Martin County Travel & Tourism. (800) 776-8566.
Murfreesboro. (252) 398-4886.
Perquimans County. (252) 426-5657.
Tyrrell County Visitors Center. (252) 796-0723.
Washington County. (252) 793-4804.
Windsor Area. (252) 794-4277.

Recreation and Culture

Chowan Arts Council. (252) 482-8005.
Columbia Cultural Arts Resource Center. (252) 796-1000.
Dixieland Motorsports Complex, Elizabeth City. (252) 335-7412.
Elizabeth City State University Planetarium. (252) 335-3759.
Fun Junktion. (252) 337-6600.
Historic Edenton Visitor Center. (252) 482-2637.
Main Street Stage, Elizabeth City. Home of the Encore Theatre Company. (252) 338-3382.
Mariners' Wharf. Internationally-acclaimed for the Elizabeth City Rose Buddies. (252) 335-4365.
Museum of the Albemarle, U.S. 17, Elizabeth City. Exhibits of life in northeastern North Carolina. (252) 335-1453.
Newbold-White House. S.R. 1336, Hertford. State's oldest house. (252) 426-7567.
Partnership for the Sounds. Columbia. (252) 796-1000.
Pasquotank Arts Council Gallery. (252) 338-6455.
Pocosin Arts. (252) 796-2787.
Port O' Plymouth Museum. (252) 793-1377.
Roanoke River Partners. Windsor. (252) 794-2793.
S-Shaped Bridge. Hertford.
Scuppernong River Interpretive Boardwalk, Wetlands Walk. (252) 796-1000.
Sen. Bob Martin Eastern Agricultural Center. Williamston. Indoor arena for horse events, truck pulls, etc. (252) 792-5802.
U.S. Naval Air Station, Weeksville. Airship hangar. (252) 330-5555.
Watermark Association of Artisans. Craft cooperative. (252) 338-0853.

Parks, Monuments, Historic Sites

Camden County Jail, Camden. Built in 1910, restored. (252) 338-1919.
Confederate Monument. Dedicated to Gen. James Johnston Pettigrew and his command for their charge at Gettysburg.
Dismal Swamp Wetlands & Boardwalk Project. Observation tower, biking, hiking, fishing, boating and hunting. (252) 335-3375.
Fort Branch Historic Site. Confederate earthworks. East of Hamilton. (252) 792-3001.
Episcopal Cemetery. Some burial sites date back to 1724. (252) 335-0346.
Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. Only live peat bog on the continent. (757) 986-3907.
Historic Columbia Walking Tour. (252) 796-2781.
Historic Main Street Districts Walking Tour, Elizabeth City. (252) 335-4365.
Historic Murfreesboro. 45 miles west of Elizabeth City. Early river port. (252) 398-5922.
Historic Plymouth. (252) 791-0001.
Historic Washington. (252) 946-9168.
Historic Windsor. (252) 794-4277.
Hope Plantation, Windsor. Restored, early 1800s home of N.C. Governor and U.S. Senator David Stone. (252) 794-3140.
Mackay's Island National Wildlife Refuge. Knotts Island. (252) 429-3100.
Merchants Millpond State Park. U.S. 158. (252) 357-1191.
Pettigrew State Park. Creswell. (252) 797-4475.
Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge. Creswell. (252) 797-4431.
Roanoke River National Wildlife Refuge. 10,000 acres. (252) 794-5326.
Somerset Place Historic Site. Near Creswell. Best example of slave-supported plantation life. (252) 797-4560.
Veteran's Park on the Scuppernong. (252) 796-1371.
Waterfront Parks, Elizabeth City. (252) 338-3981.
The Whalehead Club, Corolla. (252) 2075.

Electric Cooperatives

Albemarle EMC (Hertford). (252) 426-5735.
Edgecombe-Martin County EMC (Tarboro). (252) 823-2171.
Roanoke Electric Cooperative (Rich Square). (252) 539-2236.
Tideland EMC (Pantego, Grantsboro, Ocracoke, Engelhard). (252) 943-3046.

Outer Banks & Pamlico

Although towns formed here before they did anywhere else in the state, governments rise and fall like sand castles on the beach. Water, wind, and maybe whimsy as well, are the prime movers of the Outer Banks and Pamlico.

The Lost Colony didn't last on Roanoke Island. The Wright Brothers came and went. The great city of Portsmouth is a ghost town now. Settlers tried to live on Core Banks, but they moved on. Men tried to drain Mattamuskeet and gave up. Shad once ran abundantly up the sound, but now they're gone.

But while they were here, they loved it. They loved it as those here today love it. You can't help it. The light is lovelier here than anywhere, reflecting the sea and sounds, penetrating the soul of anyone who stays. The surf and breeze can carry away your cares and bring you something fresh and new.

Reverence and renewal guide this region. People revere the forces of nature, for the bounty it brings, for the culture it creates and leaves behind. And they set about renewing it all from time to time: the waterfronts at Washington, New Bern and Beaufort; the museums of Currituck, Hatteras and Harkers Island.

They learn, it seems, from the amazing renewal of nature itself in the 130 miles of protected seashore and the eight national wildlife refuges. Thanks to the water and wind, this area will never be the same.

Carolina Curiosity

Tulip Fields Terra Ceia

In the 1930s and early 1940s, a group of Dutch immigrants settled in the flat fields of Beaufort County. Lured by the rich black soil, they grew the flowers of the old country: tulips, gladiolus, irises, daffodils, hyacinths, peonies, crocuses. At one time, 30 growers raised more than 500 acres of flowers. Now only one family remains a major grower, the Staalduinens, with 200 acres, mostly tulips. Other families grow a few acres, and in the spring and early summer, the fields around Terra Ceia blossom beautifully. This community, whose name means "heavenly land," is on State Road 1616, off US 264, near Pantego. A festival of the flowers and culture is held in April.

Harkers Island

N.C. Travel & Tourism

N.C. Travel & Tourism

Seafood Festival in Morehead City

Travel Information

Aycock Brown Welcome Center, Kitty Hawk. (252) 261-4644.
Belhaven. (252) 943-3770.
Carteret County Tourism Bureau. (800) 786-6962 / (252) 726-8148. www.sunnync.com
Craven County Convention and Visitors Bureau. (800) 437-5767.
Greater Hyde County Chamber. (252) 925-5201, or (888)HYDE-VAN. www.albemarle-nc.com/hyde
Havelock. (252) 447-1101.
Historic Bath Visitor Center. (252) 923-3971.
New Bern Area. (800) 437-5767.
Ocracoke Visitor Center. (252) 928-4531. www.ocracoke-nc.com
Outer Banks Chamber. (252) 441-8144.
Outer Banks Visitors Bureau. (800) 446-6262 / (252) 473-2138.
N.C. Ferries. (800) BY-FERRY.
Pamlico County. (252) 745-4171.
Washington-Beaufort County. (252) 946-9168.
Washington County. (252) 793-4804.

Outer Banks & Pamlico

Culture and Recreation

Attmore-Oliver House, New Bern. Built in 1790. (252) 638-8558.
Aurora Fossil Museum, Aurora. Geology of the coastal plain. (252) 322-4238.
Bank of Arts, New Bern. Home of the Craven Arts Council and Gallery. (252) 638-2577.
Belhaven Memorial Museum. Unusual collection. (252) 943-3055.
Bogue Inlet Pier. (252) 726-7021.
Carteret County Museum of History, Morehead City. (252) 247-7533. www.nccoast.com/museum.htm
Coastal Engineering Research Center, Duck. 800-ft. research pier.
Colington Island. Site of the first permanent settlement on the Outer Banks.
Core Sound Waterfowl Museum, Harkers Island. (252) 728-1500. www.coresound.com
Elizabethan Gardens, Roanoke Island. A memorial to English colonists. (252) 473-3234.
The Fireman's Museum, New Bern. (252) 636-4087.
Frisco Native American Museum and Natural History Center. (252) 995-4440.
Gull Rock Game Land. (919) 733-7291.
Hatteras Fishing Center. The island's largest marina. (252) 986-2365.
Historic Bath Tour. (252) 923-3971.
"The Lost Colony." Outdoor symphonic drama, in summer, Roanoke Island. (800) 488-5012 (252) 473-3414.
Oregon Inlet Campground. Run by the National Park Service. (252) 473-2111.
Oregon Inlet Fishing Center. Center of sportfishing on the Outer Banks. (800) 272-5199 / (252) 441-6301.
The New Bern Civic Theatre. (252) 633-0567.
New Bern Historic Trolley Car Tour. (800) 849-7316.
North Carolina Aquarium at Pine Knoll Shores. (252) 247-4003. www.aquariums.state.nc.us/Aquariums
North Carolina Aquarium on Roanoke Island. (252) 473-3494.
North Carolina Maritime Museum, Beaufort. (252) 728-7317. www.ah.dcr.state.nc.us/maritime/default.htm
Ocracoke Campground. Run by the National Park Service. (800) 365-CAMP.
Ocracoke Pony Pens. About six miles from Hatteras ferry landing.
Tryon Palace and Gardens, New Bern. Home of William Tryon, governor of the colony. (800) 767-1560 / (252) 638-5109.
"Worthy Is the Lamb." Musical drama at Crystal Coast Amphitheatre, Swansboro, during summer. (252) 393-8373/(800) 662-5960.

Parks, Monuments, Historic Sites

Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge. (252) 473-1131.
Beaufort Historic Site. Historic houses. (252) 728-5225, (800) 575-SITE. www.nccoastonline.com/BHA
Bodie Island Lighthouse, south of Nags Head. (252) 441-5711.
British Cemetery, Ocracoke. Memorial to four British sailors.
Cape Hatteras Lighthouse and Hatteras Island Visitor Center. Tallest lighthouse in the U.S. (252) 995-4474.
Cape Hatteras National Seashore. 75 miles. (252) 473-2111.
Cape Lookout Lighthouse. (252) 728-2250.
Cape Lookout National Seashore, Harkers Island office. (252) 728-2250. www.nps.gov/calo
Carrot Island/Rachel Carson Estuarine Sanctuary. Across Taylor's Creek from the Beaufort waterfront. (252) 728-2170.
Cedar Island National Wildlife Refuge. (252) 225-2511.
Chicamacomico Lifesaving Station, Rodanthe. Restoration. (252) 987-2405.
Croatan National Forest. Southwest of New Bern. (252) 638-5628.
Currituck Lighthouse, Corolla. (252) 453-4939.
Elizabeth II State Historic Site, Manteo. Reproduction of a 16th century English sailing vessel. (252) 475-1500.
Fort Macon State Park. Off N.C. 58. One of the 10 most-visited state parks in the country. (252) 726-3775. www.clis.com/friends
Fort Raleigh National Historic Site. Sir Walter Raleigh's "lost" colony. Roanoke Island. (252) 473-5772.
Goose Creek State Park. Washington. (252) 923-2192.
Hammocks Beach State Park. Accessible by ferry off N.C. 24. (910) 326-4881.
Historic Ocracoke. (252) 928-7375.
Jockey's Ridge State Park, Nags Head. East Coast's highest sand dune. (252) 441-7132.
Lake Landing Driving Tour. (252) 925-5201/(888) HYDE-VAN.
Lake Mattamuskeet/Swan Quarter National Wildlife Refuge. (252) 926-4021.
The Lodge at Mattamuskeet. (252) 926-1422.
Nags Head Woods Preserve. (252) 441-2525.
Neuse River Recreation Area. (252) 638-5628.
Ocracoke Lighthouse. (252) 928-4531.
Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge. Bird sanctuary. (252) 473-1131.
Portsmouth Village. Uninhabited 18th century shipping village maintained by the National Park Service. (252) 728-2250.
Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge. (252) 797-4431.
Saint Thomas Episcopal Church, Bath. Oldest church in North Carolina.
Theodore Roosevelt State Natural Area. Between Atlantic Beach and Pine Knoll Shores. (252) 726-3775.
Wright Brothers National Memorial, Kill Devil Hills. Site of first airplane flight. (252) 441-7430.

Electric Cooperatives

Cape Hatteras Electric Cooperative (Buxton). (252) 995-4088.
Carteret-Craven Electric Cooperative (Morehead City). (252) 247-3107.
Harkers Island EMC (Harkers Island). (252) 728-2593.
Tideland EMC (Pantego, Grantsboro, Ocracoke, Engelhard). (252) 943-3046.

Morning view of Cape Hatteras Lighthouse

Hildegard Sandhusen

South Coast

From Swansboro to Calabash, this coastline sparkles along Onslow Bay and tucks itself into Long Bay where you can actually see a sunset over the ocean.

The port of Wilmington with its historic district and upscale waterfront is the crown jewel. As the majestic Cape Fear River broadens, it passes Southport-by-the-Sea and rolls toward the point once called Cape Fair.

Gracious and gallant southern history is preserved at plantation houses and their grounds, Civil War forts, an American Revolution battlefield, the colonial Brunswick Town seaport and a WWII battleship.

Camp Lejeune, the world's most complete amphibious marine training base, dominates the region's northern reaches, and the expansive Holly Shelter Game Land shows its nature.

An intimacy with the sea gives the South Coast genuine fishing villages along the real Ocean Highway (U.S. 17), superb sailing in the Intracoastal Waterway, Bald Head lighthouse, seaside golf courses and family-friendly beach towns among its islands.

Travel Information

Bald Head Island Information Center. (800) 234-1666.
Burgaw Area. (910) 259-9817.
Cape Fear Coast Convention and Visitors Bureau, Wilmington. (800) 222-4757 / (910) 341-4030. www.cape-fear.nc.us
Greater Hampstead. (910) 270-9642.
Greater Jacksonville-Onslow. (910) 347-3141.
Greater Topsail Area. (800) 626-2780.
Greater Wilmington. (910) 762-2611.
NC Brunswick Islands, Shallotte. (800) 795-7263. www.ncbrunswick.com
Onslow County Tourism, Jacksonville. (800) 932-2144.
Pleasure Island (Carolina Beach, Kure Beach, Fort Fisher). (910) 458-8434.
South Brunswick Islands, Shallotte. www.weblync.com/sbi_chamber (800) 426-6644 / (910) 754-6644.
Southeastern Welcome Center, Inc. (910) 754-2505.
Southport-Oak Island. (800) 457-6964 / (910) 457-6964. www.southport.net
Southport 2000 Visitor Center, Southport. (800) 388-9635
Swansboro. (910) 326-1174.

Culture and Recreation

Airlie Gardens. Off U.S. 74. (910) 452-6393.
The Burgwin-Wright House, Wilmington. Three-level gentleman's townhouse. (910) 762-0570.
Camp Lejeune Marine Corps Base. (910) 451-1113.
Cape Fear Museum, Wilmington. Social and natural history of the Lower Cape Fear area. (910) 341-4350.
Chandler's Wharf, Wilmington. Riverfront shopping and dining.
The Cotton Exchange. North Front Street, Wilmington. Specialty shops and restaurants.
Greenfield Gardens. U.S. 421 south. (910) 341-7855.
Horse-drawn Carriage and Trolley Tours. (910) 251-8889.
Lynwood Park Zoo. Hwy 258/24 Jacksonville. Land mammals, exotic birds, waterfowl, hoofed stock. (910) 938-5848.
Mike's Farm. Richlands. Hayrides, colonial living. (910) 324-3422.
Museum of Coastal Carolina. Ocean Isle Beach. Natural history of coastal North and South Carolina. (910) 579-1016.
North Carolina Aquarium at Fort Fisher. (910) 458-8257.
Odell Williamson Auditorium. Brunswick Community College, Supply. (910) 754-3133.
Onslow County Museum. Richlands. Cultural and natural history. (910) 324-5008.
Opera House Theatre Company, Wilmington. (910) 762-4234.
Orton Plantation Gardens. South of Wilmington on N.C. 133. Former rice plantation. (910) 371-6851.
Poplar Grove Historic Plantation. U.S. 17 at Scotts Hill. (910) 686-9989.
Riverboat Cruises. (800) 676-0162.
St. John's Museum of Art, Wilmington. Encompassing the former St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church. (910) 763-0281.
Southport Maritime Museum. (910) 457-0003.
Southport Municipal Pier. Howe Street on the Cape Fear River.
Thalian Hall Center for the Performing Arts. (910) 343-3664.
Wilmington Adventure Walking Tours. (910) 763-1785.
The Wilmington Railroad Museum. (910) 763-2634.
Zebulon Latimer House, Wilmington. Four-story Italian Revival residence. (910) 762-0492.

Parks, Monuments, Historic Sites

Bald Head Island Lighthouse. Accessible by ferry.
The Battleship "North Carolina," Wilmington. Renovated World War II battleship. (910) 251-5797. www.city-info.com/ncbb55.html
Beirut Memorial Wall, Jacksonville. Honors 273 killed in October 1983 bombing. (800) 932-2144.
Brunswick Town State Historic Site. First settlement in the Cape Fear area. (910) 371-6613.
Carolina Beach State Park. U.S. 421. (910) 458-8206.
Fort Fisher National Historic Site. Civil War site. (910) 458-5538.
Hammocks Beach State Park, Off NC 24. (910) 326-4881.
Moores Creek National Battlefield, Currie. N.C. 210 NW of Wilmington. Revolutionary War site. (910) 283-5591.

Electric Cooperatives

Brunswick EMC (Shallotte, Whiteville, Oak Island, Bolivia). (910) 754-4391.
Four County EMC (Burgaw, Elizabethtown, Rose Hill). (910) 259-2171.
Jones-Onslow EMC (Jacksonville, Sneads Ferry). (910) 353-1940.

N.C. Travel & Tourism

Roanoke Rapids to Kinston

This region's character comes from its rich, coastal plain farmland, its longtime role as a transportation corridor, and its development as a diversified society. It is authentic eastern North Carolina.

The state's best cotton, tobacco, corn and soybeans are produced here. Along these roads you can see old pack houses and newer bulk barns, historic auction warehouses, neatly planted fields that turn abundantly green, wagons loaded with firm cucumbers or compacted cotton, giant tractors, men and women working hard at a harvest.

Travelers have long found this a hospitable region. Railroads have connected all the cities. Routes 301 and I-95 are THE legendary north-south highways. Military aircraft command the sky. The Global TransPark someday will transform the region into a worldwide air shipping hub.

Even Sherman's army was not impeded in 1865 when it plundered this region. The southern portion, along the rich Neuse River plain, displays reminders of the Confederates' confrontation with Sherman. It all is explained at a state Historic Site in Bentonville. Although the plantation economy was finally laid to rest then, its elegant and fruitful aspects have been preserved in each county.

The area bred a population that has reckoned gradually and gracefully with its differences and its common destiny. Today, the amazing mix of people work and grow well together. Any place that produced Ava Gardner and Thelonius Monk must be doing something well.

Carolina Curiosity

The Collard Festival in Ayden

Despite the facts that collards grow on Main Street and Bum's Restaurant has collards on the menu every day, folks in Ayden aren't known to grow or eat more collards than anybody else. So why do they celebrate collards every year early in September?

Blame it on a Yankee.

Lois Theuring moved to Ayden when her husband's company transferred him to nearby Greenville. She wrote articles for the local newspaper. She also hated collards. In one article, she closed every paragraph with a disparaging remark about collards.

As it happened, some people in town were then thinking about organizing a festival to compete with nearby Grifton's Shad Festival, and a local businessman, Willis Manning, wrote a letter to the editor asking for ideas. He closed it by suggesting that Mrs. Theuring might organize a collard festival.

Lois Theuring surprised everybody by doing just that. She organized the first one in 1975. She moved back to Ohio the following year.

The festival includes a collard-eating contest. It usually isn't a pretty sight, since not all the contestants are able to hold their collards.

The all-time collard-eating champion is Desmond Rogers, a 340-pound pickup truck dealer from Snow Hill, who has won every time he has entered. He once downed six and a quarter pounds of collards in a single sitting. Call (919) 746-8178.

Travel Information

Benson. (919) 894-3825.
Wayne County. (919) 734-2241.
Clayton. (919) 553-6352.
Eastern N.C. Chamber of Commerce. (919) 237-5151.
Farmville. (919) 753-4670.
Greater Smithfield-Selma Area. (919) 934-9166.
Greenville/Pitt County Convention & Visitors Bureau. (800) 537-5564.
Halifax County Tourism. (800) 522-4282. www.visithalifax.com
Johnston County Visitors Bureau. (800) 441-7829.
Kenly. (919) 284-5510.
Kinston-Lenoir County. (252) 527-1131.
Kinston Convention & Visitors Bureau. (252) 523-2500.
Lagrange. (252) 527-1500.
Mt. Olive Area. (919) 658-3113.
Nash County Travel & Tourism Council. (800) 849-6825.
N.C. Welcome Center (I-95 North). (252) 537-9836.
N.C. Welcome Center (I-85 North). (252) 456-3236.
Roanoke Valley. (800) 522-4282.
Rocky Mount Area. (800) 849-6825 / (252) 442-5111.
Scotland Neck. (252) 826-3917.
Tarboro-Edgecombe County. (252) 823-7241.
Wilson. (252) 237-0165.
Wilson Visitors Bureau. (800) 497-7398 / (252) 243-8440.

Historic Halifax

Culture and Recreation

Adventures in Health Childrens Museum. Greenville. Hands-on health exhibit and teaching center. (252) 752-7231.
Arts Council of Wilson. (252) 291-4329.
Atkinsons Mill. 240-year-old operating grist mill, outside Selma. Tours. (919) 965-3547.
Ava Gardner Museum. All about the legendary actress and county native. Smithfield. (919) 934-5830.
Blount-Bridgers House, Tarboro. 1808 plantation home includes the Hobson Pittman Memorial Art Gallery. (252) 823-4159.
Boyette-Slade and School House. Historic, one-room log house. Kenly. (919) 284-2911.
Buck Spring Plantation, Warrenton. Home of early political leader. (252) 257-3640.
Caswell No. 1 Fire Station Museum. Kinston. (252) 527-1566.
Community Council for the Arts, Kinston. Galleries, studios, historic district. (252) 527-2517.
Country Doctor Museum. Only such museum in the U.S. (252) 235-4165.
East Carolina Village of Yesteryear, Greenville. Agricultural life of the area from 1840-1940. On county fairgrounds. (252) 758-6385.
Factory Stores of America. Headquarters and over 64 outlets. Smithfield. (919) 934-9446.
"First For Freedom," Halifax. Outdoor drama about the Halifax Resolves. (800) 522-4282.
Greenville Museum of Art. Features permanent collection of 19th and 20th century American art and the state's largest public collection of Jugtown Pottery. (252) 758-1946.
Grifton Depot, Grifton. 1920 railroad depot. (252) 524-5169.
Grifton Historical Museum, Grifton. Exhibits include pre-historic and Tuscarora Indian artifacts. (252) 524-5168.
Harmony Hall, Kinston. Once owned by 1770s Gov. Richard Caswell. (252) 522-0421.
Independence Station. Halifax. Co-op gallery of crafters and artisans. (252) 583-2278.
Imagination Station, Wilson. Hands-on museum geared to children. (252) 291-5113.
Johnston County Heritage Center. Smithfield. (919) 934-8146.
JR's Tobacco & Fragrance Outlet. Selma. (919) 965-5055.
Kinston Indians. Minor league baseball. (252) 527-9111.
Lakeland Cultural Arts Center, Littleton. Year-round dinner theater. (252) 586-3124.
Robert Lee Humber House, Greenville. Contains eastern office of state Division of Archives and History. (252) 830-6580.
Science & Nature Center, Greenville. River Park North. Houses a fine collection of wildlife exhibits. (252) 830-4561.
Selma Antiques Mecca. Over 15 antique stores. (919) 965-9841.
Selma Railroad Depot. Historic Amtrak station. (919) 965-9841.
Southern National Speedway. Kenly. NASCAR April-October. (919) 284-1114.
Stonewall, Rocky Mount. 1830 plantation house with furnishings. (252) 443-4148.
Tarboro Historic District & National Recreation Trail. For a guide: (800) TARBORO.
Tobacco Farm Life Museum, Kenly. (919) 284-3431.
Wayne County Museum, Goldsboro. (919) 734-5023.
Wilson Theatre-Grady Building, Wilson. Vaudeville theater under restoration. (252) 291-8281.

Parks, Monuments, Historic Sites

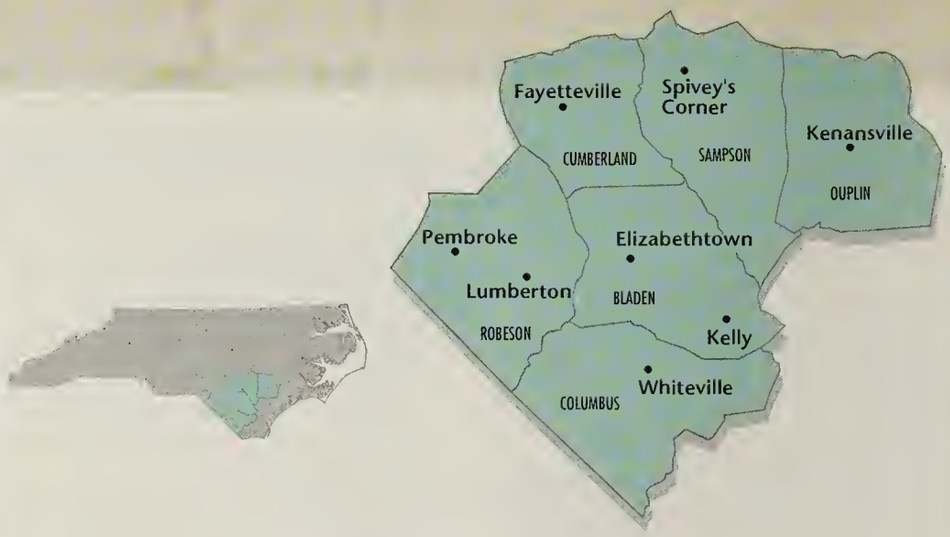
Bentonville Battleground, Four Oaks. Site of N.C.'s largest land Civil War battle. (910) 594-0789.
Charles B. Aycock Birthplace, Freemont. 1846 coastal cottage where the governor was born. (919) 242-5581.
Clemmons State Forest. Educational forest in Clayton. (919) 553-5651.
Cliffs of the Neuse State Park, Seven Springs. 751 acres riverfront. (919) 778-6234.
College View Historic District, Greenville. An example of early 20th century residential neighborhood, featuring Craftsman Bungalow, American Toursquare and Spanish Revival. (252) 329-4487.
CSS Ram Neuse State Historic Site and Richard Caswell Memorial, near Kinston. Restored remains of Neuse ironclad vessel. (252) 522-2091.
Historic Halifax. Restored buildings, film, exhibits and guided tours of historic places. (252) 583-7191.
Historic Tarboro. (252) 823-4159
May Museum and Park, Farmville. May family artifacts and large quilt collection. (252) 753-5814.
Medoc Mountain State Park, Halifax County. 2,287 acres, picnicking, canoeing, camping. (252) 445-2280.
Neuseway Nature Park and Campground. Kinston. (252) 939-3367.
Roanoke Canal Trail. Roanoke Rapids. Seven-miles along early 19th century canal. (252) 965-9841.
River Park North, Greenville. (252) 830-4562.
Waynesborough State Park, Goldsboro. 142 acres. (919) 580-5391.

Electric Cooperatives

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC (Tarboro). (252) 823-2171.
Halifax EMC (Enfield). (252) 445-5111.
Pitt & Greene EMC (Farmville). (252) 753-3128.
Roanoke Electric Cooperative (Rich Square). (252) 539-2236.
Tri-County EMC (Dudley). (919) 735-2611.

Cotton harvest, Greene County

Pine Plains



Early explorers called this Pine Plains because of the tall pine forests and sandy plains that dominate the region between the Lumber, Cape Fear and Black rivers.

There are natural features here that you won't find anywhere else. Among vast pine barrens are the famous Carolina Bays, probably formed by a massive meteor cascade, containing unusual fish and plants. It's delightful in all seasons, especially from a canoe in the quiet rivers. Red Springs, in fact, grew because of its healthful nature. At Lake Waccamaw, you can feel the relaxing transformation that the clear water of the area can impart.

The population centers of Fayetteville, Lumberton, Elizabethtown, Whiteville, Clinton and Kenansville each has a distinctive personality formed by the influences of farming, manufacturing and the military.

Lumbee Indian society prevails in the western sections, and the heritage is displayed at Pembroke. Fort Bragg has shaped the northern part for more than 70 years. Duplin County has a genteel farming heritage and is famous for developing the muscadine grape. Lakes and rivers dominate Bladen County. And Columbus County reflects an industrial prowess. Touring the Cape Fear River plain and the Green Swamp (140 square miles) instills a deep respect for the vast forests of the Pine Plains.

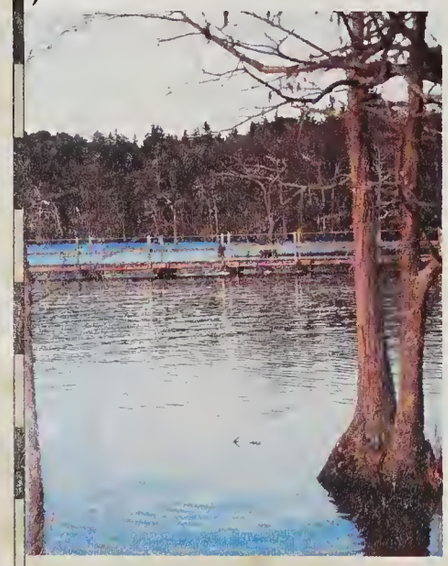
Travel Information

Clinton Area. (910) 592-6177.
Duplin County Tourism. (800) 755-1755 / (910) 296-2180.
Elizabethtown-White Lake. (910) 862-4368.
Fair Bluff. (910) 649-7202.
Fayetteville Area C of C. (910) 483-8133. www.foto.com/chamber
Fayetteville Area Convention & Visitors Bureau. (800)255-8217/(910)483-5311. www.facvb.com
Fayetteville Historic Resources Commission. (910) 433-1612.
Fayetteville Partnership. (910) 483-2073.
Greater Chadbourn. (910) 654-3445.
Greater Whiteville. (800) 538-2449 / (910) 642-3171.
Hope Mills. (910) 423-4314.
Kenansville Area. (910) 296-0369.
Lumberton Visitors Bureau. (800) 359-6971/ (910) 739-9999. www.i95travel.com
Pembroke. (910) 521-9758.
Red Springs. (910) 843-5441.
Saint Pauls. (910) 865-3890.
Spring Lake. (910) 497-8821.
Tabor City. (910) 653-2031.
Wallace. (910) 285-4044.
Warsaw. (910) 293-7804.

Culture and Recreation

Cowan Museum, Kenansville. (910) 296-2149.
Duplin County Southern Plantations Tours, Kenansville. (910) 296-1000.
Duplin Wine Cellars. U.S. 117, Rose Hill. (910) 289-3888.
Elwell Ferry, Bladen County. (910) 862-3396.
Fascinate-U Children's Museum, Fayetteville. (910) 433-1573.
Flora Macdonald Campus and Gardens, Red Springs. (910) 843-5000.
Fort Bragg Military Reservation and 82nd Airborne Division War Memorial. (910) 432-3443. www.bragg.army.mil
John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Museum, Ft. Bragg. (910) 432-1533.
Liberty Hall Plantation, Kenansville. (910) 296-2175.
Museum of the Cape Fear Historical Complex, Fayetteville. (910) 486-1330.
N.C. Indian Cultural Center, Pembroke. (910) 521-2433.
UNC-Pembroke and American Indian Resource Center. (910) 521-6266.
Pope Air Force Base. Limited tours. (910) 394-4183. www.pope.af.mil
Robeson County Historical Showcase Museum, Lumberton. (910) 738-7979.
Robeson County Planetarium. (910) 739-3302.
The Southerland House, Kenansville. Duplin County Civil War Collection. (910) 296-1000 (by appointment).
World's Largest Frying Pan. Town Square, Rose Hill.

Jones Lake



Parks, Monuments, Historic Sites

Bladen Lakes Educational State Forest, Elizabethtown. (910) 588-4964.
Fayetteville Market House. A historic market building landmark.
Heritage Square, Fayetteville. (910) 483-6009.
Jones Lake State Park, Elizabethtown. (910) 588-4550.
Lake Waccamaw State Park. (910) 646-4748.
Lumber River State Park, Orrum. (910) 628-9844.
Moores Creek National Battlefield, Currie. Revolutionary War site. (910) 283-5591.
Singletary Lake State Park, Kelly. (910) 669-2928.
Turn Bull Creek Educational State Forest, Elizabethtown. (910) 588-4161.

Electric Cooperatives

Brunswick EMC (Shallotte, Whiteville, Oak Island, Bolivia). (910) 754-4391.
Four County EMC (Burgaw, Elizabethtown, Rose Hill). (910) 259-2171.
Lumbee River EMC (Red Springs, Fairmont, Lake Rim, Laurinburg, Lumberton, Raeford). (910) 843-4131.
South River EMC (Dunn, Stedman, Anderson Creek). (910) 892-8071.

The Triangle

Here is the hub of North Carolina — the official center of government, education, history, art, music, medicine, research and, in some seasons, college basketball.

The Triangle reaches from Raleigh, Durham and Chapel Hill into the surrounding countryside where citizens remain only as connected to the spokes as they choose. The collective population is about 1 million.

Anointed recently as one of the nation's best places to live and work, the Triangle also attracts a steady stream of visitors to its museums, handsome capitol building and government halls, fine universities, historic districts, renowned hospitals, competitive sporting events, the state fair, and cosmopolitan restaurants and shopping centers.

Just beyond the urban centers is an enviable collection of protected parks and wild areas — Eno River, Haw River, Falls Lake, Jordan Lake, Kerr Lake, Umstead Park, Duke Forest.

Some determined natives lament the fading of a North Carolina accent from the Triangle, while others embrace the mixing of cultures that has occurred here for two centuries. But if you look and listen long and hard — at a legislative committee hearing, or the Hillsborough court house, or the state farmers market, or a Franklin County church supper — you'll understand where you are.

Travel Information

Apex. (919) 362-6456.
Cary. (919) 467-1016.
Chapel Hill-Carrboro Chamber of Commerce. (919) 967-7075.
Chapel Hill/Orange County Visitors Bureau. (888) 968-2060 / (919) 968-2060. www.chocvb.org
Chatham County. (919) 742-3333.
Durham Convention and Visitors Bureau. (919) 687-0288. http://dcvb.durham.nc.us
Franklin County. (919) 496-3056.
Fuquay-Varina Area. (919) 552-4947.
Garner. (919) 772-6440.
Granville County. (919) 693-6125.
Greater Durham Chamber of Commerce. (919) 682-2133.
Greater Raleigh Chamber of Commerce. (919) 664-7000. www.raleighchamber.org
Greater Raleigh Convention and Visitors Bureau. (800)849-8499/(919)834-5900. www.raleighcvb.org
Henderson-Vance County. (919) 438-8414.
Hillsborough Area. (919) 732-7741.
Morrisville. (919) 380-9026.
Roxboro Area. (910) 599-8333.
Wake Forest Area. (919) 556-1519.
Wendell. (919) 365-6318.
Zebulon. (919) 269-6320.

Parks, Monuments, Historic Sites

Ayr Mount, Hillsborough. One of NC's finest plantation houses. (919) 732-6886.
B. Everett Jordan Lake. U.S. 64. 47,000-acre recreational lake. (919) 362-0586.
Bennett Place State Historic Site, Durham. Meeting place for Civil War generals. (919) 383-4345.
Burwell School, Hillsborough. Historic school and formal gardens. (919) 732-7741.
Duke Forest, Durham. 8,300-acre natural area and environmental laboratory. (919) 613-8013.
Duke Homestead and Tobacco Museum, Durham. Ancestral home of the Duke family. (919) 477-5498.
Eno River State Park/West Point on the Eno. North Durham. (919) 383-1686.
Executive Mansion (Governor's residence), Raleigh. (919) 733-3456.
Falls Lake. Northwest of Raleigh. (919) 676-1072.
Historic Stagville, Durham. Center for the study and teaching of preserving wooden buildings. (919) 477-9835.
Kerr Reservoir. 50,000-acre park extending into Virginia. North of Henderson. (919) 438-7791.
Lake Wheeler. South of Raleigh. (919) 662-5704.
Mordecai Historic Park, Raleigh. (919) 834-4844
Montrose Gardens, Hillsborough. Nationally-known 19th century gardens. (919) 732-7787.
N.C. State Legislative Building. (919) 733-7928.
North Carolina Botanical Garden, Chapel Hill. Off U.S. 15-501 Bypass. (919) 962-0522.

State Farmers Market

Historic Hillsborough

The Triangle

Parks, Monuments, Historic Sites continued

North Carolina Collection Gallery, Chapel Hill. Exhibits on NC history and University of North Carolina history. (919) 962-1172.
J.C. Raulston Arboretum at NC State, Raleigh. (919) 515-3132.
Pullen Park, Raleigh. Features a restored 1911 Dentzel carousel. (919) 831-6468.
Ruffin-Roulhac House, Hillsborough. Large estate constructed in the 1820s. (919) 732-2104.
The State Capitol. (919) 733-4994.
Sarah P. Duke Gardens. At Duke University, Durham. 55 landscaped areas. (919) 684-5579.
University Lake, Chapel Hill. (919) 942-8007.
William B. Umstead State Park. (919) 571-4170.

Culture and Recreation

Ackland Art Museum, Chapel Hill. (919) 966-5736.
African-American Cultural Complex. Raleigh. Exhibits contributions to the state and nation. (919) 231-0625.
Arts Center. Performances, concerts, dancing, art. Carrboro. (919) 929-2787.
Artspace. Gallery with artists' studios Raleigh. (919) 821-2787.
Best of Broadway Theatre Series, Raleigh. Raleigh Memorial Auditorium. (919) 834-4000.
Capital Area Visitor Center. Information center for Raleigh's state-owned, cultural and historic attractions. (919) 733-3456.
Carolina Ballet. (919) 303-6303.
Carolina Memorabilia Room, Chapel Hill. Dean E. Smith Center. (919) 962-7777.
Carolina Mudcats, Zebulon. Class AA farm team of the Colorado Rockies. (919) 269-2287.
Carolina Theatre. Durham. Film festivals to live performances. (919) 560-3040.
Carolina Union Performing Arts Series, Chapel Hill. Live performances, concerts, dance. (919) 962-1449.
Carrboro Farmers Market. (919) 376-3237.
Cedar Creek Craft Gallery, Creedmoor. (919) 528-1041.
Chapel Hill Museum. (919) 967-1400.
City Market, Raleigh. Spanish mission-style 1914 marketplace. (919) 828-4555.
Duke University, Durham. (919) 684-2323.
Duke University Museum of Art, Durham. (919) 684-5135.
Durham Arts Council. Three art galleries and home to 18 arts organizations. (919) 560-2787.
Durham Bulls. Class AAA farm team of the Tampa Bay Devil Rays. (919) 956-BULL.
Frank H. Keenan Football Center Hall of Honor, Chapel Hill. (919) 966-2575.
Historic Hillsborough. Over 100 late 18th and early 19th century structures. (919) 732-7741.
The Horace Williams House, Chapel Hill. (919) 942-7818.
Morehead Planetarium, Chapel Hill. (919) 549-6863.
North Carolina Museum of Art, Raleigh. State-funded art museum. (919) 839-6262. www2.ncsu.edu/ncma
North Carolina Museum of History, Raleigh. (919) 715-0200. http://nchistory.dcr.state.nc.us/museums/
North Carolina Museum of Life and Science, Durham. Premier museum for children in the Triangle. (919) 471-4294.
North Carolina State Farmers Market, Raleigh. (919) 733-7417.
North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences, Raleigh. Focuses on natural history and environment of North Carolina. (919) 733-7450. www.naturalsciences.org
North Carolina State University, Raleigh. (919) 515-2011. www.ncsu.edu
North Carolina Symphony. (919) 733-2750. www.ncsymphony.org
North Carolina Theatre. (919) 831-6941.
Oakwood Historic District, Raleigh. 400 private homes from 19th century. (919) 834-0887.
Orange County Historical Museum, Hillsborough. Depicts lifestyles from the time of the Indians through the Civil War era. (919) 732-2104.
Orange County Speedway, Rougemont. (336) 364-1222.
Playmakers Repertory Company, Chapel Hill. (919) 962-7529.
Raleigh Little Theatre. (919) 821-4579. www.mindspring.com/~rallittletheatre
Triangle SportsPlex, Hillsborough. (919) 644-0339.
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Self-guided tours: (919) 962-1630.
Village of Fearrington, near Pittsboro. Country village with fine shops, inn and 5-diamond dining. (919) 542-4000.
Wakefield/Joel Lane House. Oldest home in Raleigh.(919) 833-3431.

Electric Cooperatives

Piedmont EMC (Hillsborough, Roxboro). (919) 732-2123.
Wake EMC (Wake Forest, Zebulon). (919) 554-6300.

State Capitol, Raleigh

N.C. Travel & Tourism

The Sandhills

Many of North Carolina's best-known qualities are concentrated among these rolling hills of sandy soil: the 60-degree average temperature, longleaf pines, friendly towns, golf courses and car racing.

Pinehurst, Southern Pines, Whispering Pines — these places developed as resorts because of their charming surroundings. Transplants from all over retire here. This is, after all, the golf capital of the world.

Passenger rail travel boosted the development and is celebrated at Hamlet. Car racing continues to fuel it and is celebrated at Rockingham. In between are the more leisurely paced pursuits of horseback riding and bicycling so well suited to the terrain.

Its western edge contains the ancients: Uwharrie mountains and forest, the river named Pee Dee (Catawba phrase for "something good"), and 500-year-old Town Creek Indian Mound ceremonial grounds.

Travel Information

Angier. (919) 639-2500.
Convention and Visitors Bureau for the Village of Pinehurst, Southern Pines and Aberdeen Area. (800) 346-5362 / (910) 692-3330.
Dunn Area. (910) 892-4113.
Erwin Area. (910) 897-7300.
Laurinburg/Scotland County Area. (910) 276-7420.
Lillington Area. (910) 893-3751.
Montgomery County. (910) 572-4300.
Raeford-Hoke. (910) 875-5929.
Richmond County, Rockingham. (800) 858-1688 / (910) 895-9058.
Sandhills Area Chamber of Commerce. (910) 692-3926.
Sanford Area. (919) 775-7341.

Culture and Recreation

Bethesda Church and Cemetery, Aberdeen. 1790 historic church. (910) 944-1319.
Cameron Historic District. 19 historic places. Antique fairs in May and October. (910) 245-3697.
Campbell House, Southern Pines. Home of Arts Council, Raildroad Club, Southern Pines Recreation. (910) 692-4356.
Midland Crafters, on N.C. 2. Sells the work of many regional craftspeople. (910) 295-6156.
N.C. Speedway, Rockingham. Major NASCAR races. (910) 582-2861.
National Railroad Museum and Hall of Fame, Hamlet. Railroad memorabilia.
The Sunrise Theater, Southern Pines. Performances by resident groups. (910) 692-3799.
Rankin Museum of American Heritage, Ellerbe. Traces humankind's adaptation to environment. (910) 652-6378.
Rockingham Dragway, Rockingham. (910) 582-3400.
Sandhills Women's Exchange, Pinehurst. Handmade early-American crafts and baked goods (910) 295-4677.
Seagrove Potters. Pottery country. Most studios open to the public.
Tufts Archives, Pinehurst. James Walker Tufts' dream of Pinehurst displayed. (910) 295-3642.
Weymouth Center, Southern Pines. Historic home hosts N.C. Literary Hall of Fame, readings, concerts, lectures. (910) 692-6261.

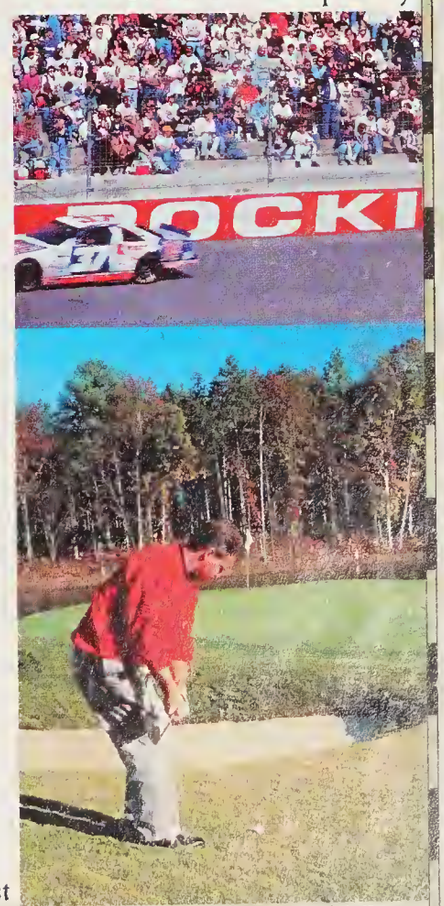
Parks, Monuments, Historic Sites

The House in the Horseshoe State Historic Site. S.R. 1644, near Sanford. Colonial plantation home. (910) 947-2051.
Malcolm Blue Farm, Aberdeen. Antebellum farm on National Register of Historic Places. (910) 944-7558.
Southern Pines Reservior Park. Trails connected with other vicinity trails to provide more than four miles of hiking and biking trails. (910) 692-2463.
Sandhills Horticultural Garden, Pinehurst. Includes largest holly garden on East Coast, roses, conifers, rhodedendron and azaleas; native wetland trail and formal English garden. (910) 695-3882/(919)692-6185.
Shaw House, Southern Pines. 1840 Antebellum home of sturdy simplicity; home of Moore County Historical Association. (910) 692-2051.
Town Creek Indian Mound, near Mt. Gilead. 500-year-old burial site. (910) 439-6802.
Uwharrie National Forest. N.C. 24/27, east of Albemarle. (910) 576-6391.
Weymouth Woods Nature Preserve, Southern Pines. 600 acres of natural area, plus hiking trails. (910) 692-2167.

Electric Cooperatives

Central EMC (Sanford). (919) 774-4900.
Lumbee River EMC (Red Springs, Fairmont, Lake Rim, Laurinburg, Lumberton, Raeford). (910) 843-4131.
Randolph EMC (Asheboro, Robbins). (910) 625-5177.
Pee Dee EMC (Wadesboro, Rockingham). (704) 694-2114.
South River EMC (Dunn, Stedman, Anderson Creek). (910) 892-8071.

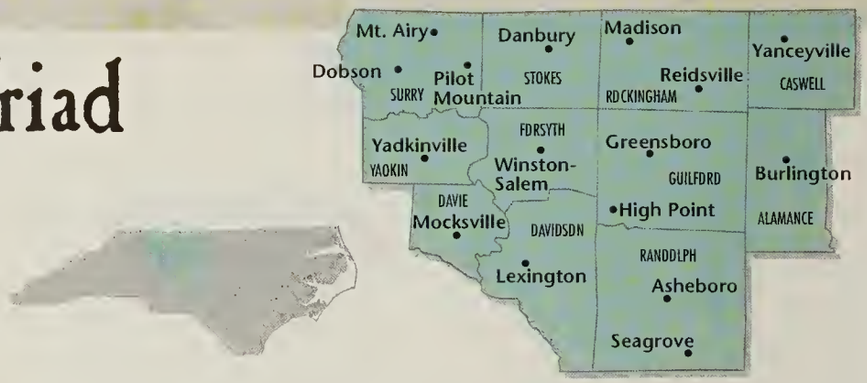
North Carolina Speedway



Pinehurst

N.C. Travel & Tourism

Piedmont Triad



You might say that this is the heart of North Carolina. Settled by kind and gentle people, such as Moravians and Quakers, the region evolved into the source of North Carolina's refinement.

Here are the unrivaled sources of the state's furniture, cigarettes, shortbread and barbecue. Here, too, are the finest living history museums, performing arts school and ceramic crafts. And behind them all are the kind-hearted communities that gave rise to the image of television's Mayberry.

Surrounding the Triad cities are the epitome of North Carolina's dedicated communities: textile works, orderly farms, peaceful churches and friendly main streets. Natural features such as Pilot Mountain, Hanging Rock and Yadkin River help explain the steady, piedmont character. And it's out here that you can taste a real "sonker" if you know where to look.

Travel Information

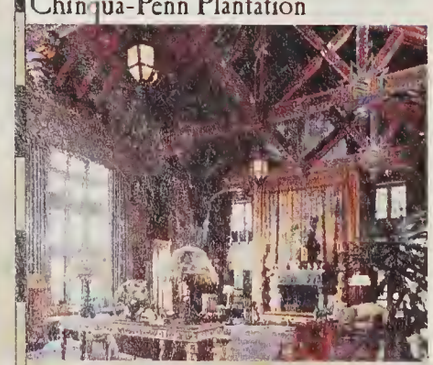
Archdale-Trinity. (336) 434-2073.
Asheboro/Randolph C of C & Tourism Bureau. (336) 626-2626.
Burlington/Alamance County Convention and Visitors Bureau. (800) 637-3804 / (336) 570-1444.
Caswell County. (336) 694-6106.
Davie County. (336) 751-3304.
daviecoc@ix.netcom.com
Eden. (336) 623-3336.
Greater Elkin-Jonesville-Arlington. (336) 526-1111.
Greater Mount Airy. (336) 786-6116.
Greensboro Area. (336) 275-8675.
Greensboro Area Convention and Visitors Bureau. (800) 344-2282/(336) 274-2282.
www.greensboronc.org
High Point. (336) 889-8151.
High Point Convention and Visitors Bureau. (800) 720-5255 / (336) 884-5255.
www.highpoint.org
Kernersville. (336) 993-4521.
King. (336) 983-9308.
Lexington Area Convention and Visitors Bureau. (336) 248-5929, ext.221.
Liberty. (336) 622-4937.
Mount Airy Visitor Center. (336) 789-4636.
Piedmont Triad Visitor Center. (800) 388-9830 / (336) 388-9830.
Reidsville. (336) 349-8481.
Thomasville Area. (336) 475-6134/(800) 611-9907.
Western Rockingham. (336) 548-6248.
Winston-Salem. (336) 725-2361.
Winston-Salem Convention and Visitors Bureau. (800)331-7018/(336)728-4200.
www.wscvb.com
Winston-Salem Visitor Center. (800) 331-7018 / (336) 777-3796.
Yadkin County. (336) 367-7251.

Culture and Recreation

Alamance Country Historical Museum. NC 62 South, Burlington. 19th century house-museum depicting the life of textile pioneer Edwin M. Holt. (336) 226-8254.
Andy Griffith Playhouse, Mount Airy. (336) 786-7998.
Angela Peterson Doll and Miniature Museum, High Point. South's largest doll museum. (336) 885-3655.
Barn Dinner Theatre, Greensboro. Oldest dinner theatre in the country offering Broadway shows. (336) 292-2211.
www.zip2.com/mainstreet/thebarn
Bernice Bienenstock Furniture Library, High Point. 7,000 volumes on furniture, design and the decorative arts. (336) 883-4011.
The Bob Timberlake Gallery, Lexington. (800) 244-0095.
Burlington Manufacturers Outlet Center. I-85/I-40, Burlington. Exit 145. Over 75 outlets. (800) 637-3804.
The Carolina Theater, Greensboro. Restored 1927 vaudeville-style theater. (336) 333-2600.
www.carolinatheatre.com
Celebration Station, Greensboro. Family fun entertainment center. (336) 316-0606.
Davidson County Museum of Art, Lexington. (336) 249-2742.
Davie County Arts Council. (336) 751-3112.
Delta Arts Center, Winston-Salem. African-American arts and humanities. (336) 722-2625.
Diggs Gallery, Winston-Salem State University. African-American and contemporary art. (336) 750-2458.
www.wssu.edu/diggs
Edwards-Franklin House, Surry County. 1799 plantation house museum of Surry County Historical Society. (336) 786-8359.
Emerald Pointe, Greensboro. Water amusement park. (336) 852-9721. www.emeraldpointe.com
Fiddle and Bow, Winston-Salem. Triad's traditional music society. (336) 727-1038.
Furniture Discovery Center, High Point. (336) 885-6859.
The Gallery at Old Salem, Winston-Salem. (336) 721-7300. www.oldsalem.org
Greensboro Children's Museum. Hands-on exhibits for ages 1-12. (336) 574-2898. www.greensboro.com/mymuseum/
Greensboro Cultural Center at Festival Park. Home to 25 visual- and perfonning-arts organizations, five art galleries, restaurants, and an amphitheater. (336) 373-2712.
Greensboro Historical Museum. History of the city and surrounding area. (336) 373-2043.
Haw River Historical Museum, Haw River. (336) 578-1646 or (336) 563-1593.
High Point Historical Museum. (336) 885-6859.
Ice House, Greensboro. Family ice skating venue. (336) 852-1515.
Korner's Folly, Kernersville. 1880 restored tour house filled with interior design wonders. (336) 996-7922.
Market Square, High Point. Renovated chair factory and trade show center. (336) 884-5255.
Mattye Reed African Heritage Center, Greensboro (N.C. A&T University). Over 3,500 African art objects. (336) 334-7874.

Old Salem

Chinqua-Penn Plantation



Museum of Anthropology, Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem. The only museum devoted to the study of world cultures. (336) 759-5282. www.wfu.edu/campus-vb/anthropology.html

Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts, Winston-Salem. Dedicated to exhibiting and researching the regional decorative arts of the early South. (336) 721-7300. www.oldsalem.org

Natural Science Center of Greensboro. Hands-on museum, zoo, and planetarium. (336) 288-3769. www.greensboro.com/sciencecenter

North Carolina School of the Arts, Winston-Salem. First state-supported arts school in the nation. (336) 721-1945. www.ncarts.edu

Old Greensboro Preservation Society. Self-guided walking tour of downtown. (336) 272-6617.

Paramount Theater, Burlington. Renovated, located in historic downtown. (336) 222-5001.

Piedmont Blues Preservation Society, Greensboro. Features Carolina Lite Blues Festival. (336) 275-4944.

Piedmont Chamber Singers, Winston-Salem. (336) 722-4022.

Piedmont Craftsmen, Inc., Winston-Salem. Represents 300+ of the Southeast's finest craft artisans. (336) 725-1516. www.webfresco.com/pci

Piedmont Opera Theatre, Winston-Salem. (336) 725-7101. www.piedmontopera.org

R.J. Reynolds Whitaker Park, Winston-Salem. Cigarette manufacturing museum. (336) 741-5718.

Reynolda House, Museum of American Art, Winston-Salem. American art displayed in the former home of R.J. Reynolds. (336) 725-5325. www.reynoldahouse.org

Richard Childress Racing Museum, Welcome. Trophies, awards, unique memorabilia, tour race shop facilities. Souvenir shops of Dale Earnhardt and Mike Skinner. (800) 476-3389.

Richard Petty Museum, Level Cross. (336) 495-1143.

The Sawtooth Center for Visual Arts, Winston-Salem. Houses three art galleries. (336) 725-8916. www.sawtooth.org

Seagrove. U.S. 220, south of Greensboro. Town with over 20 active potteries.

SciWorks, Winston-Salem. Science Museum and Environmental Park. (336) 767-6730. www.sciworks.org

Snow Camp Outdoor Dramas. Snow Camp. NC 49 South. "The Sword of Peace" and "Pathway to Freedom," June-August. Other productions include musicals and children's theater. (800) 726-5115/(336) 376-6948.

Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art, Winston-Salem. (336) 725-1904. www.electricpaving.com/secca

Springfield Museum of Old Domestic Life, High Point. (336) 889-4911.

Textile Heritage Center, Cooleemee. Tells story of mill village life. (336) 284-6040.

Theatre Art Galleries, High Point. Encompasses three exhibition areas. (336) 887-3415.

Weatherspoon Art Gallery, Greensboro. 4,000 works of 20th century American art. (336) 334-5770. www.uncg.edu/wag

Capt. James & Emma Holt White House, Graham. Restored historic home and art gallery. (336) 226-4495.

Winston-Salem Piedmont Triad Symphony. (336) 723-7919. www.ols.net/users/sym/index.htm

World's Largest Chair, Thomasville. A monument to the area's furniture-making heritage. (336) 476-6134/(800) 611-9907.

World's Largest Chest of Drawers, High Point. 32 ft. tall. (336) 883-2016.

Parks, Monuments, Historic Sites

Alamance Battleground State Historic Site. N.C. 62 South. Site of the battle that ended the War of the Regulation. (336) 227-4785.

Battle of Clapp's Mill-Memorial Marker, Burlington. Lake Macintosh. (800) 637-3804.

Blandwood Mansion, Greensboro. Former home of Gov. John Motley Morehead. (336) 272-5003.

Boone's Cave State Park. N.C. 150, on the Yadkin River. (704) 528-6514.

Burlington City Park. Lake Macintosh; features 1910 Dentzel Menagerie Carousel, miniature train, amusement rides, Aquatic and Tennis center. (336) 222-5030.

Bryan Park. U.S. 29. On southern shore of 1,500-acre Lake Townsend, two championship golf courses. (336) 621-3583.

Castle McCulloch. Historic gold refinery. (336) 887-5413.

Cedarock Historical Working Farm & Park. NC 49 South, Burlington. 414-acre park and working farm. (336) 570-6769.

Charlotte Hawkins Brown Memorial State Historic Site. U.S. 70, Sedalia. On the campus of the former Palmer Memorial Institute (prestigious preparatory school for African Americans). (336) 449-4846.

Chinqua-Penn Plantation, Reidsville. 1920s country manor filled with eclectic art. (336) 349-4576.

City Lake Park, High Point. (336) 887-2511.

Davidson County Historical Museum, Lexington. (336) 242-2035.

Guilford Courthouse National Military Park. Site of an important Revolutionary War battle, 220 acres of trails. (336) 288-1776. www.nps.gov/guco

Hanes Park. Largest park in Winston-Salem. (336) 727-2137.

Hanging Rock State Park. N.C. 89, north of Winston-Salem. Largest state park in the Piedmont. (336) 593-8480.

High Point Museum & Historic Park. Oldest home on original site in Guilford County. (336) 885-6859.

Historic Bethabara Park, Winston-Salem. First Moravian settlement. (336) 924-8191.

Historic Railroad Depot and Ampitheater, Burlington. Renovated depot with murals depicting city life from 1893-1993. (336) 222-5137.

Horne Creek Living Historical Farm, Surry County. Recreates life and work of 1900-1910. (336) 789-4636.

Jaycee and Country Parks, Greensboro. Tennis, baseball, softball, fishing and trails. (336) 545-5343.

Lindley's Mill-Memorial Marker. NC 87, Eli Whitney. (800) 637-3804.

Mendenball Plantation, Jamestown. Early 19th century Quaker Plantation. (336) 454-3819.

North Carolina's Oldest Train Depot. (336) 475-6134/(800) 611-9907.

North Carolina Vietnam Veteran's Memorial Park. Off I-85, exit 102, six miles north of Lexington. (336) 475-6134/(800) 611-9907.

North Carolina Zoological Park. U.S. 220 near Asheboro. Large, natural-environment zoo. (336) 879-7000.

Oak Hollow Lake Park, High Point. (336) 883-3418.

Old Mill of Guilford. N.C. 68, Oak Ridge. Working mill dating back to 1745. (336) 643-4783.

Old Salem, Winston-Salem. 18th- and 19th-century living history Moravian town. (336) 721-7300. www.oldsalem.org

Piedmont Environmental Center. Hiking trails, educational programs and the new NC Mapscape. (336) 454-4214.

Pilot Mountain State Park. U.S. 52, northwest of Winston-Salem. The area's most distinctive geologic attraction. (336) 325-2355.

Pyle's Defeat-Memorial Marker, Burlington. Old Trail Rd. (800) 637-3804.

Reynolda Gardens, Winston-Salem. Four acres of formal gardens, a greenhouse range and 125 acres of fields and woodlands. (336) 725-5325. www.wfu.edu/gardens

Tanglewood Park. U.S. 158, west of Winston-Salem. 1,300-acre park. (336) 778-6300. www.tanglewoodpark.com

Tannenbaum Historic Park, Greensboro. Features restored Revolutionary War house. (336) 545-5315.

Wright Tavern. Wentworth. Restored 19th century tavern with rare "Dog Run" architecture. (336) 342-5901.

Electric Cooperatives

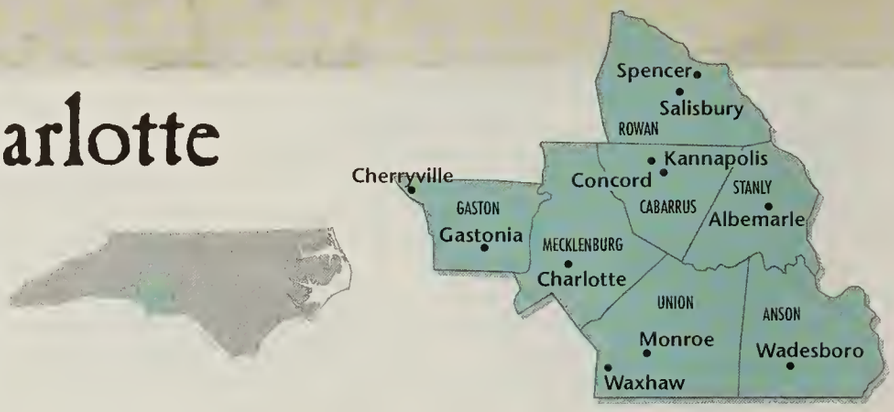
EnergyUnited (Statesville, Mocksville, Cornelius, Taylorsville) (704) 873-5241; (Lexington, Madison) (336) 249-3131.

Piedmont EMC (Hillsborough, Roxboro). (919) 732-2123.

Randolph EMC (Asheboro, Robbins). (336) 625-5177.

Surry-Yadkin EMC (Dobson). (336) 386-8241.

Greater Charlotte



Ever since they found gold in 1799, this place has been bound for glory. A U.S. Mint coined gold here until 1865. And today it's the financial center of the South.

It is not a gaudy glitter that adorns Charlotte, however. The region shines because it was polished faithfully and carefully, true to the personality of its namesake, Queen Charlotte Sophia of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, who assumed control upon the madness of King George III, her husband. (Mecklenburg's patriots, nevertheless, defied the British during the American Revolution causing Lord Cornwallis to give up his occupation of the "damned hornet's nest.")

Today's Hornets, a professional basketball team, buzz in a top-notch coliseum. And the young Panthers, a professional football team, play in a downtown stadium. These world-class sports teams are in the same league as the region's art and performance organizations and its business institutions.

Greater Charlotte leads North Carolina's commercial and industrial enterprise. You see its foundation in the outlying communities of Belmont, Concord, Gastonia and Kannapolis. You see its gentle and stately nature farther out in Waxhaw and Salisbury. You see its eager heirs around Monroe and Wadesboro. You see its fun spirit at Charlotte Motor Speedway and Carowinds. Because of the shine, you can't miss it.

Carowinds, south of Charlotte

Carolina Curiosity

America's Only Trucking Museum
Cherryville

Grier Beam bought a used 1931 Chevrolet truck during the Depression to haul coal to local schools, as well as fruit and vegetables from Florida. His business grew into Carolina Freight Carriers, now the 10th largest hauler in the nation.

Over the years, Beam restored a lot of the old trucks that his company phased out. He even found one of those '31 Chevy trucks. To house his collection, he built a building on Mountain Street in Cherryville, next to the old gas station that once held his first office. He opened the museum in 1982 with 14 trucks. Known as the Carolina Freight Carriers Museum, the place is open Thursday 1-5 p.m., Friday 10 a.m.– 5 p.m., and Saturday 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Call (704) 435-3072.

Travel Information

Anson County. (704) 694-4181.
Belmont. (704) 825-5307.
Bessemer City Area. (704) 629-3900.
Cabarrus County Visitors Center. (704) 938-4550.
Charlotte Chamber of Commerce. (704) 378-1300.
Charlotte Conv. and Visitors Bureau. (800) 722-1994. www.charlottecvb.org
Cherryville. (704) 435-3451.
Concord-Cabarrus County. (704) 782-4111.
Gaston County Travel & Tourism. (800) 849-9994. www.gaston.org
Gaston County Chamber of Commerce. (704) 864-2621.
Kannapolis. (704) 932-4164.
Marshville. (704) 624-3183.
Matthews. (704) 847-3649.
Mint Hill. (704) 545-9726.
North Mecklenburg. (704) 892-1922.
Rowan County Conv. & Visitors Bureau. (800) 332-2343 / (704) 638-3100. www.visitsalisburync.com
Rowan County Chamber of Commerce. (704) 633-4221.
Stanly County. (704) 982-8116.
Union County. (704) 283-6886.

Culture and Recreation

American Military Museum. Exhibits include weapons and medal displays. (704) 866-6068.
Afro-American Cultural Center, Charlotte. Multidisciplinary arts organization. (704) 374-1565.
C. Grier Beam Truck Museum, Cherryville. One of only three truck museums in the country. (704) 435-3072.
Carolina Raptor Center, Inc. At Latta Plantation Park. Center for care of injured birds. (704) 875-6521.
Charlotte Motor Speedway. NASCAR racing and tours. (704) 455-2121.
Charlotte Museum of History. Artifacts of local and regional history. (704) 568-1774.
Charlotte Repertory Theatre. (704) 333-8587.
Charlotte Symphony Orchestra. (704) 332-0468.
Charlotte Trolley, Inc. (704) 375-0850.
Cherryville Historical Museum. Local history from early 1800s. (704) 435-8011.
Children's Theatre of Charlotte. Performances and classes. (704) 333-8983.
"Christmas Town USA," McAdenville. Entire town displays millions of lights. (704)824-3190. http://users.unet.net/srankin/
Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden, Belmont. (704) 825-4490. www.stowegarden.org
Discovery Place, Charlotte. Hands-on science and technology museum. (800) 935-0553 / (704) 372-0471.
Downtown Salisbury. (704) 637-7814.
Gaston County Museum of Art and History, Dallas. Largest public collection of horse-drawn vehicles in the state. (704) 922-7681.

JAARS, Waxhaw. Technical service arm for Wycliffe Bible Translators and the Summer Institute of Linguistics. (704) 843-6000.
JS Pottery, Lowell. Pottery demonstrations, handcrafted items. (704) 824-2483.
Jesse Helms Center, Wingate. (704) 233-1776.
Josephus Hall House, Salisbury. (704) 636-0103.
Lazy 5 Ranch, Mooresville. (704) 663-5100.
Meroney Theatre, Salisbury. (704) 633-5471.
Mexico Cardenas Museum, Waxhaw. (704) 843-6000.
Mint Museum of Art, Charlotte. Local and regional history in permanent and changing exhibits. (704) 337-2000.
Museum of the Alphabet, Waxhaw. Explores ancient alphabets from around the world. (704) 843-6000.
Nature Museum, Charlotte. Specially designed for small children. (800) 935-0553 / (704) 372-6261.
Opera Carolina, Charlotte. (704) 332-7177.
Oratorio Singers of Charlotte. (704) 332-0468.
Paramount's Carowinds. I-77 on N.C./S.C. border. Theme park. (800) 822-4428 / (704) 588-2600.
Rowan Museum/UtzmanChambers House/Old Stone House, Salisbury. (704) 633-5946.
Salisbury Heritage Tour. Audio walking tour of Historic Salisbury. (800) 332-2343.
Schiele Museum of Natural History, Gastonia. Most frequently visited museum in the state. (704) 866-6900. www.schielemuseum.org
Spirit Square Center for the Arts. Uptown Charlotte's premier arts center. (800) 922-6431 /(704) 372-1000.
University of North Carolina at Charlotte. Brochure with map at the information booth inside the N.C. 49 entrance.
Village of Gold Hill, Gold Hill. (704) 279-5674.
A Walk Thru Historic Fourth Ward. Self-guided tour of Uptown Charlotte. (704) 376-0105.
Waterworks Visual Arts Center, Salisbury. Regional exhibits, sensory garden. (704) 636-1882.

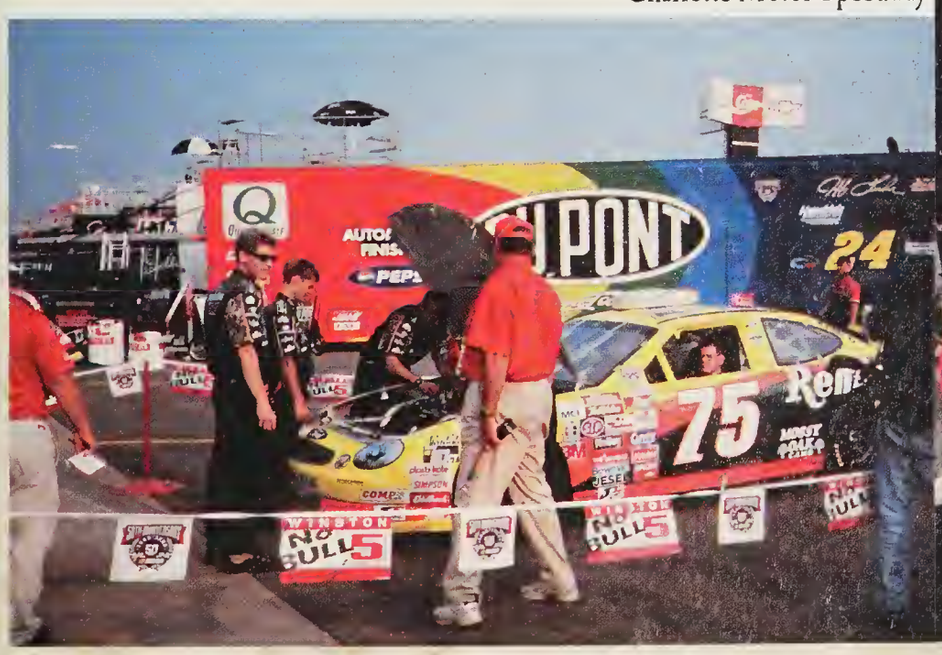
Parks, Monuments, Historic Sites

Andrew Jackson Memorial, Waxhaw. (704) 283-6886.
Belmont Abbey, Belmont. Once the only abbey cathedral in the nation, on National Historic Registry. (704) 825-6890.
Cane Creek Park, Waxhaw. Fishing, boating, swimming, miniature golf, camping, biking, horseback riding, and more. (704) 843-3919.
Cannon Village, Kannapolis. Restored textile mill merchandise center. (704) 938-3200.
Crowders Mountain State Park. US 29/74, located in Gaston County between Gastonia and Kings Mountain. (704) 853-5375.
Dan Nichols Park, Salisbury. (704) 636-2089.
Freedom Park. 1900 East Blvd. Charlotte. (704) 336-2884.
Hezekiah Alexander Homesite, Charlotte. Oldest standing dwelling in Mecklenburg County. (704) 568-1774.
James K. Polk Memorial, Pineville. (704) 337-2000.
Kings Mountain National Military Park. Site of major Revolutionary War battle. (704) 867-1181.
Lake Norman. (704) 333-7547.
Latta Place/Latta Plantation Nature Preserve. Off I-77, Huntersville. 1800s plantation house and grounds. (704) 875-2312.
McDowell Nature Preserve. Off N.C. 49 south. The county's largest park. (704) 588-5224.
Monroe Historic District (704) 283-6886.
Morrow Mountain State Park. N.C. 740 east of Charlotte. (704) 982-4402.
Museum of the Waxhaws, Waxhaw. Regional history from 1650-1900. (704) 843-1832.
North Carolina Transportation Museum/ Historic Spencer Shops, Spencer. (704) 636-2889/(877) 628-6386.
Reed Gold Mine. N.C. 24/27 east of Charlotte. First documented gold mine in the United States. (704) 786-8337.
Salisbury National Cemetery. (704) 636-2661.
UNC-Charlotte Botanical Gardens. (704) 547-4286.
Union County Courthouse and Heritage Room, Monroe. (704) 283-3500.
Uwharrie National Forest. N.C. 24/27, east of Albemarle. (910) 576-6391.
Waxhaw Historic District (704) 283-6886.
Wing Haven Gardens and Bird Sanctuary, Charlotte. (704) 331-0664.

Electric Cooperatives

EnergyUnited EMC. (Statesville, Mocksville, Cornelius, Taylorsville). (704) 873-5241.
Pee Dee EMC (Wadesboro, Rockingham). (704) 694-2114.
Rutherford EMC (Forest City, Morganton, Crouse). (828) 245-1621.
Union EMC (Monroe, Oakboro). (704) 289-3145.

Charlotte Motor Speedway



Discovery Place, Charlotte

Catawba Foothills

Indians of the Catawba strain ("people of the river banks") were well settled here and into South Carolina when DeSoto passed through in 1540. Cherokee lived in the western hills. Today you can see how they sustained themselves heartily raising food and animals in these wide open lands.

Later, people came here and stayed on because it seemed so healthful, with mountain springs, broad lakes and rivers, plentiful flowering grasslands, and views of distant mountains. Gemstones in the foothills were a big draw, too.

In the late 1920s, the Morse brothers carefully made Lake Lure, Chimney Rock and the Hickory Nut Gorge area into a tasteful attraction where visitors can appreciate the natural surroundings.

It's obvious that widescale, fast-paced development is not the norm here. Towns like Hickory, Morganton, Marion, Rutherfordton and Forest City have a self-assured sense about them. Shelby's handsome downtown and Tryon's horse-country environment deliver a message that they know what they are about and where they are headed.

Relaxed driving in this region can be one of the most satisfying excursions in all of North Carolina.

Carolina Curiosity

Andrews Geyer
Old Fort

Andrews Geyser is not, alas, a true geyser. It is more accurately a fountain. Built in 1885 as a scenic attraction to mark the beginning of the long, twisting railroad climb across the mountains to Asheville, the geyser functions by gravity with water piped off a nearby mountain, spraying a constant plume about 60 feet high. It's on Mills Creek Road, off old U.S. 70, northwest of Old Fort.

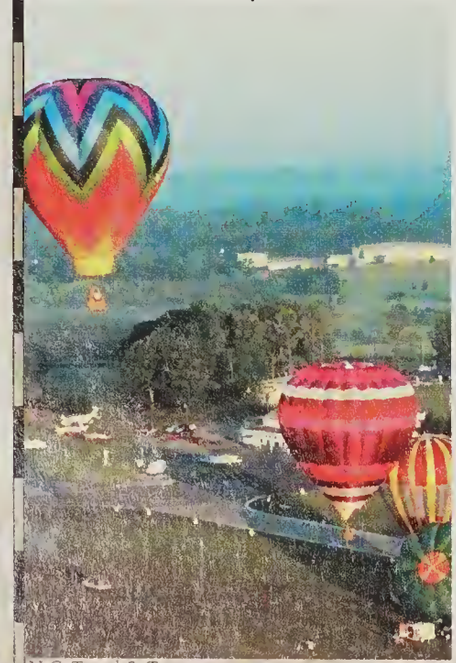
Travel Information

Alexander County. (828) 632-8141.
Burke County Travel & Tourism. (828) 433-6793/(888) 462-2921. www.hci-net/~bcttc.
Catawba County. (828) 328-6111.
Cleveland County Chamber of Commerce. (704) 487-8521.
Cleveland County Economic Development Commission, Shelby. (704) 484-4999. www.co.cleveland.nc.us
Greater Hickory. (828) 322-1335.
Greater Statesville. (704) 873-2892.
Hickory Nut Gorge. (828) 625-2725.
Kings Mountain-Branch of Cleveland County. (704) 739-4755.
Lincolnton-Lincoln County. (704) 735-3096.
McDowell Chamber of Commerce. (828) 652-4240.
McDowell Tourism Development Authority, Marion. (888) 233-6111/(828) 652-1103.
Mooresville-South Iredell. (704) 664-3898.
Old Fort. (828) 668-7223/(888) 233-6111.
Polk County Chamber of Commerce. (828) 859-6236.
Polk County Visitors Center, Tryon. (800) 440-7848. www.main.nc.us/Polk/visitpolk
Rutherford County Chamber of Commerce. (828) 287-3090. e-mail: chamber@rfci.net
Rutherford County Tourism Development. (800) 849-5998 / (828) 286-1110. www.rutherfordtourism.com

Culture and Recreation

Alva Theatre, N. Sterling St., Morganton. First in Burke County to show "talkies." A photo studio now.
Apple Hill Orchard, Morganton. Grows more than nine varieties. Educational tours, gift shop, homemade apple cider. (828) 437-1224.
Arts and Science Center of Catawba Valley, Hickory. (828) 324-4906.
Arts and Science Center, Statesville. (704) 873-4734.
Bradley Falls/Little Bradley Falls. I-26 Saluda exit.
Brown Mountain Lights. Overlook on Hwy. 181N, Morganton. Visible on clear nights. (828) 433-6793/(888) 462-2921.
Bunker Hill Covered Bridge, Claremont. One of two in N.C. (828) 465-0383.
Catawba River Canoe Trips. From Morganton. (828) 437-7016/(888) 462-2921.
C. Grier Beam Truck Museum, Cherryville. (704) 435-3072.
Carson House, Marion. Early 19th century house of family who gave townsite. (828) 724-4948.
Cleveland County Arts Center. In 1916 post office, uptown Shelby. (704) 484-2787.
Cleveland County Historical Museum, Shelby. (704) 482-8186.
Dale's Market, Enola Rd. & Dale St., Morganton. In continuous use since 1900. (888) 462-2921.
Emerald Village, Little Switzerland. Authentic mining equipment in underground mine. (828) 765-6463.
"From This Day Forward." Outdoor drama, Valdese. Story of Waldensian people. Exhibits on adjacent site. (800) 743-8398.

National balloon rally, Statesville



N.C. Travel & Tourism

Globe Theater, Alexander Mills. Like Shakespeare's. (800) US-GLOBE.
Grant's Museum, Old Fort. Authentic Indian artifacts. (828) 668-3143.
Green River Cove, Saluda. Runs from Saluda to Lake Adger; swimming, tubing, kayaking and other outdoor activities.
Hickory Crawdads. Minor league baseball, Clement Blvd., Hickory. (800) 488-3237.
Hickory Furniture Mart. (828) 322-3510.
Hickory Motor Speedway. NASCAR track. (828) 464-3655.
Hiddenite Center, Hiddenite. 1914 mansion, gems, art, dolls. (828) 632-6966.
Hiddenite Gems, Hiddenite. "Gem Capital of the World." (828) 632-3394.
Kings Mountain Fire Department Historical Museum, Kings Mountain. (704) 734-0555.
Kouris Warehouse, Shelby. Colonial revival warehouse home to the Farmers' Market.
Lake Lure Tours. Guided boat tours. (828) 625-0077.
Lincolnton Cultural Center, Lincolnton. Museum of history, performance hall. (704) 739-9055.
Maple Grove and Propst House, Hickory. Open by appointment. (828) 322-4731.
McDowell Arts & Crafts Assn. Marion. (828) 652-8610.
Mountain Gateway Museum, Old Fort. Pioneer museum with exhibits, programs and demonstrations. (828) 668-9259.
Murray's Mill, Catawba. Restored family grist mill. (828) 465-0383.
Newton Historic District. Includes Catawba County Museum of History. (828) 465-7400.
Old Fort Railroad Museum, Old Fort. Historic depot, railroad and train exhibits. (828) 668-7223.
Pacolet River Scenic Byway. Scenic drive on Highway 176 from Tryon to historic Saluda.
Polk County Historical Museum. In the historic Tryon train depot.
Rutherford County Farm Museum, Forest City. (828) 248-1248.
Saluda Grade. Between Saluda and Tryon. Steepest standard guage mainline railroad grade in U.S. Adjacent Hwy. 176 is a state Bicycle Highway.
Sen. Sam Ervin Jr. Library, Morganton. At Western Piedmont Community College. (828) 438-6000.
Shelby Historic District. Walking tour. (704) 481-1842.
Trail of Faith, Valdese. Waldensian heritage portrayed through 15 monuments and buildings; guided tour, gift shop. (828) 874-1893/(800) 635-4778.
Tryon Fine Arts Center. (828) 859-8322.
Upstairs Gallery. Non-profit contemporary art space. Tryon. (828) 859-2828.
Waldensian Museum, Valdese. Fcouses on early Italian settlers of the area. Sundays, April--October. (828) 874-2531.

Parks, Monuments, Historic Sites

1919 Herschell-Spillman Carrousel, Shelby. Fully restored, operational carrousel with music provided by an antique band organ. (704) 484-6476. www.carrousel.shelby.net.
Andrews Geyser, Old Fort. Monument and picnic area. (828) 668-7223.
Bottomless Pools, Lake Lure. Natural area in Hickory Nut Gorge. (828) 625-8324.
Old Burke County Courthouse, Morganton. Focal point of Historic District, contains Heritage Museum. (828) 437-4104.
Chimney Rock Park, near Bat Cave. View of Lake Lure and Blue Ridge Mountains, plus recreation areas. (800) 277-9611. www.chimneyrockpark.com
Crowder's Mountain State Park, Kings Mountain. (704) 867-1181.
Duke Power State Park, Lake Norman. (704) 528-6350.
Foothills Equestrian Nature Center. Tryon. Hiking and riding trails in 300-acre preserve. (800) 440-7848.
Green River Plantation, 1804 house open by reservation. South of Rutherfordton. (828) 287-0983.
Historic Downtown Saluda.
Josephine's at Lone Beech, Marion. Restaurant on National Register of Historic Places. (828) 659-3374.
Lake James State Park, Nebo. Campsites, picnic areas, hiking, fishing, swimming. (828) 652-5047.
Linville Caverns, between Linville and Marion. Massive limestone caves. (828) 756-4171. www.linvillecaverns.com
Linville Gorge. Wilderness area in Pisgah National Forest. (828) 652-2144.
Orchard at Altapass, Blue Ridge Parkway. Century-old working apple orchard. (828)765-9531. http://blowingrock.com/northcarolina/altapass-orchard
Overmountain Victory Trail. Historic trail from Virginia to South Carolina. (888) 233-6111. www.ovta.org
Pearson's Falls. 90-foot waterfall, Saluda. (828) 749-3031.
Polk County Courthouse, Columbus. Built in 1857.
Quaker Meadows Plantation, Morganton. Restored McDowell family brick house. (828) 437-4104.
South Mountains State Park, Connelly Springs. (828) 433-4772.

Burke County

Electric Cooperatives

Blue Ridge EMC (Lenoir). (828) 754-9071.
EnergyUnited EMC (Statesville, Mocksville, Cornelius, Taylorsville). (704) 873-5241.
Rutherford EMC (Forest City, Morganton, Crouse). (828) 245-1621.

Green River Plantation, near Rutherfordton

The Blue Ridge

As American pioneers moved westward, the Blue Ridge Mountains slowed them down. So many of them decided to settle here. These are big mountains, the highest in the East.

The views to peaks and misty valleys inspired a national park through here —the Blue Ridge Parkway— solely for driving and gazing. All along it are engaging communities and cool, beautiful wild areas.

Asheville is its anchor and is indeed a solid, magnetic city. The Grove Park Inn, Biltmore Estate and business area testify to a vision limited only by the sky.

Farther up into the mountains, the scale and quiet become enormous. The challenge of living here is reflected in the unassuming communities. They understand the balance they must acquire in such awesome nature. You can sense it in the inspired music and handcrafts made here. You have to see this place and touch it to believe it.

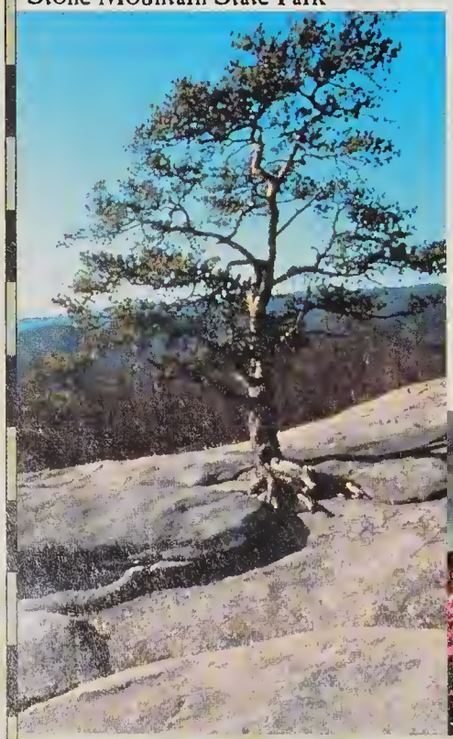
Travel Information

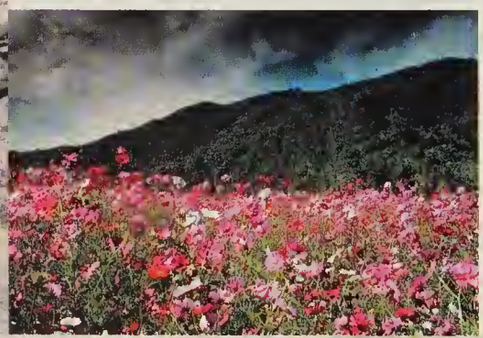
Alleghany County. (336) 372-5473.
Ashe County. (336) 246-9550.
Asheville Area Chamber of Commerce. (828) 258-6101. www.ashevillechamber.org
Asheville Travel and Tourism. (800) 257-1300.
Avery/Banner Elk. (828) 898-5605.
Beech Mountain. (828) 387-9283/(800) 468-5506. www.beechmtn.com
Black Mountain. (828) 669-2300.
Blowing Rock. (828) 295-7851. www.blowingrock.com/northcarolina
Blue Ridge Parkway. National Park scenic highway. (828) 271-4779.
Boone Convention & Visitors Bureau. (800) 852-9506.
Caldwell County. (828) 726-0616.
Madison County. (828) 689-9351.
Mitchell County, Spruce Pine. (828) 765-9483/(800) 227-3912. www.mitchell.county.com/north-carolina.
Mountain Information Centers, Asheville. (828) 258-4662.
High Country Host. Travel and accommodations information. (800) 438-7500.
N.C. Welcome Center. (I-40 West). (828) 627-6206.
Wilkes County. (336) 838-8662. www.wilkesnc.org
Wilkesboro. www.wilkesboronc.com
Yancey County, Burnsville. (828) 682-7413.

Culture and Recreation

An Appalachian Summer. Arts and culture festival at Appalachian State University. (828) 264-2120, (800) 841-ARTS.
Appalachian Ski Mountain, Blowing Rock. Ski resort. (800) 322-2373.
Art by Johannes A.S. Oertel. In St. James Episcopal Church, Lenoir. (828) 754-3712.
Art in the Park, Blowing Rock. Juried arts and crafts in summer. (828) 295-7851.
Ashe County Arts Center. (336) 246-ARTS.
Ashe County Frescoes. At St. Mary's Episcopal Church, outside West Jefferson. (336) 982-3076.
Ashe County Cheese Co. Landmark attraction. (336) 246-2501.
Asheville Community Theatre. (828) 254-1320.
Asheville Smoke Hockey. United League. (828) 252-PUCK.
Asheville Symphony. (828) 254-7046.
Asheville Tourists. Class A baseball. (828) 258-0428.
Asheville Walking Tour. (828) 254-2343.
Ballet Blue Ridge. Summer repertory ballet.
Biltmore Village, Asheville. Unique shopping, restaurants and art galleries in historic buildings next to Biltmore Estate. (828) 274-8788.
Blowing Rock Charity Horse Show. One of the oldest outdoor shows in the country.
Blowing Rock Stage Company. The professional theatre of the High Country. June-August at Blowing Rock Elementary School Auditorium. (828) 295-9627. www.blowingrockstage.com
Brushy Mountain Apple Festival. First Saturday in October. (336) 667-3322. www.applefestival.net
Caldwell Historical Museum, Lenoir. (828) 758-4004. (828) 758-1496.
Cataloochee Ski Area, Maggie Valley. (800) 768-0285. www.cataloochee.com
Daniel Boone Native Gardens, Boone. Native plants. (828) 264-6390.
Folk Art Center, near Asheville. Work of Southern Highlands Handicraft Guild. (828) 298-7928.
Furniture Shopping. 37 dealers in 20 miles on U.S. 321 in Caldwell County. (800) 737-0782.

Stone Mountain State Park





N.C. Travel & Tourism

Garden of the Senses. Especially nice for the sense-impaired. At Wilkes Community College.(336)838-6100. http://204.84.96.72/WCC/general_information/gardens.htm

Glen Burney Trail, Blowing Rock. 1.5-mile hiking trail. (828) 295-7851.

Goodwin Guild Weavers, U.S. 321 Bypass. (828) 295-3394.

Great Smokey Mountains Railway. Scenic rides. (800) 872-4681.

Grove Park Inn. Historic grand hotel. (800) 438-5800. www.groveparkinn.com

Health Adventure. Children's museum. (828) 254-6373. www.health-adventure.com

Hickory Ridge Homestead. 18th Century living history museum, next to "Horn in the West," Boone. (828) 264-2120.

Homespun Shops, Asheville. Shops and weaving museum adjoins Grove Park Inn. (828) 253-7651.

"Horn in the West," Boone. Outdoor drama about the Daniel Boone period. (828) 264-2120.

Mast General Store, Valle Crucis. A legend since 1883. (828) 963-6511.

Mountain Dance and Folk Festival, Asheville. Diana Wortham Theatre, oldest festival of its kind in nation. (828) 258-6107.

Museum of North Carolina Minerals. Part of Blue Ridge Parkway Visitor Center. (828) 765-2761.

Mystery Hill, U.S. 221/321. Amusement house, Appalachian Heritage Museum, N.C. Military Museum. (828) 264-2792.

Parkway Craft Center, Blue Ridge Parkway. Sales outlet for Southern Highlands Handicraft Guild. (828) 295-7938.

Pack Place, Asheville. New arts and science center with art museum, Colburn Mineral Museum. (828) 257-4500.

Patterson School. Historic boarding school and 1,400-acre grounds including Chapel of Rest, historic church and cemetery. Caldwell County. (828) 758-2374.

Penland School, near Spruce Pine. Crafts school since 1929. Gallery and tours (828) 765-6211.

Pinebridge Center, Spruce Pine. Indoor facility, one of largest ice skating rinks in Southeast, hockey games. (828) 765-7463.

Scenic Byway, Wilkesboro. Historic sites, scenic drive. (336) 838-8662.

Shindig on the Green, City/County Plaza, downtown Asheville. Appalachian music outdoor summer concerts. (828) 258-6107.

Singing on the Mountain, Grandfather Mountain. Outdoor gospel concert since 1930. (828) 733-4337.

Ski Beech. Beech Mountain. State's largest ski resort. (828) 387-2011.

Ski Hawksnest, Seven Devils. 9-slope ski mountain. (828) 963-6561.

Smith-McDowell House Museum of Western North Carolina History, Asheville. Restored house, oldest in Asheville. (828) 253-9231.

Southern Safari. Luxury camping and guided trips. (800) 454-7374.

Sugar Mountain Resort, Banner Elk. 18-slope ski mountain. (828) 898-4521.

Summer Music, Blowing Rock. Chamber Music Festival. (828) 295-3505.

Tweetsie Railroad, U.S. 221/321. Amusement park and frontier village with narrow-gauge railroad. (800) 526-5740. www.tweetsie-railroad.com

Western North Carolina Farmers Market, Asheville. (828) 253-1691.

Whippoorwill Academy. Ferguson. Historic schoolhouse, open to the public. (336) 973-3237.

John A. Walker Center. http://204.84.96.72/wcc/walker_center/season/season.htm

Wilkes County Art Gallery, Wilkesboro. (336) 667-2841. www.northwilkesboro.com/wilkart.htm

Wolf Laurel, near Mars Hill. Ski mountain. (828) 689-4111. www.skiwolflaurel.com

Parks, Monuments, Historic Sites

Biltmore Estate, near Asheville. Magnificent estate built for George W. Vanderbilt in 1895, with 250-room mansion, 8,000-acre grounds, vineyard and winery. (800) 543-2961. www.biltmore.com

The Blowing Rock, off U.S. 321. Viewing area and gift shop. (828) 295-7111. www.blowingrock.com/northcarolina/the-blowing-rock

Chimney Rock Park. Hiking trails, waterfall, views from atop Chimney Rock. (800) 277-9611. www.chimneyrockpark.com

Craggy Gardens, off Blue Ridge Parkway. Trails with views. (828) 298-0398.

Cumberland Knob. 1,000 acres, 2,740 feet high. Upper Alleghany County on the parkway.

Doughton Park. 7,000 acres, trails, 3,700 feet up. Near Sparta.

Fort Defiance. Home of Gen William Lenoir family on site of a late 18th century fort. Yadkin Valley. (828) 726-0616.

Grandfather Mountain, near Linville. Park with visitor center, trails, overlooks. (800) 468-7325. www.grandfather.com.

Historic Wilkesboro. (336) 667-3712. www.wilkesboro.com/wwt0.htm

Julian Price Park. Blue Ridge Parkway, MP 297, includes Price Lake, campground, hiking, picnic area.

Linville Caverns, between Linville and Marion. Massive limestone caves. (828) 756-4171.

Linville Gorge. Wilderness area in Pisgah National Forest. (828) 652-2144.

Moses Cone Estate Park. Blue Ridge Parkway at Blowing Rock, MP 292, includes Parkway Craft Center. (828) 295-7938.

Mt. Jefferson State Park. (336) 246-9653.

Mt. Mitchell State Park, Yancey County. Highest peak in the East. (828) 675-4611.

New River State Park. Ashe County. (910) 982-2587.

Old Wilkes Jail. 1860 jail once held Tom Dooley. Wilkesboro. Walking tour. (336) 667-3712. www.wilkesboro.com/wwt0.htm

The Orchard at Altapass. Working orchard along Blue Ridge Parkway (MP 328.3). (828) 765-9531.

Pinebridge Inn (Old Harris School), Spruce Pine. Built in 1920s. (800) 356-5059.

Pisgah National Forest. (828) 877-3265.

Rendezvous State Forest. Talking tree trail. Western Wilkes County. (336) 667-5072.

Stone Mountain State Park. Northeast Wilkes County. (336) 957-8185. www.ils.unc.edu/parkproject/stmo.html

Thomas Wolfe Memorial, Asheville. State Historic Site, boyhood home of the writer. (828) 253-8304. www.home.att.net/~WolfeMemorial

University Botanical Gardens, Asheville. (828) 252-5190.

W. Kerr Scott Reservoir. Wilkes County. (336) 921-3390. www.gorp.com/gorp/resource/us_nra/ace/nc_wkerr.htm

Western North Carolina Nature Center, Asheville. Animals and plants in natural habitat. (828) 298-5600.

Zebulon B. Vance Homestead, near Weaverville. State Historic Site, reconstructed home of Civil War-era statesman. (828) 645-6706.

Electric Cooperatives

Blue Ridge EMC (Lenoir, Boone, West Jefferson, Sparta). (828) 758-2383.

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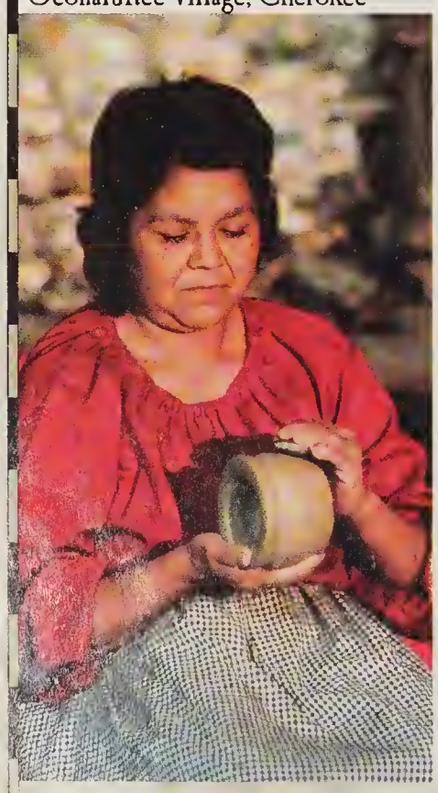
Travel Information

Andrews. (828) 321-3584.
Brevard-Transylvania Chamber of Commerce. (828) 883-3700.
Brevard/ Transylvania County Tourism. (800) 648-4523. www.visitwaterfalls.com
Cashiers Area. (828) 743-5191.
Cherokee Chamber of Commerce. (800) 438-1601 / (828) 497-9195.
Cherokee County. (828) 837-2242.
Cherokee Indian Reservation. (800) 438-1601.
Clay County. (828) 389-3704.
Dillsboro Merchants Assn. (828) 586-6542.
Franklin Area. (800) 336-7829.
Graham County. (828) 479-3790.
Haywood County. (828) 456-3021. www.haywood-nc.com.
Greater Hendersonville. (828) 692-1413.
Henderson County Travel & Tourism. (800) 828-4244. www.historichendersonville.com
Highlands. (828) 526-2112.
Jackson County Travel & Tourism. (800) 962-1911 / (828) 586-2155.
Maggie Valley Area Convention & Visitors Bureau. (800) 785-8259/ (828) 926-1686. www.maggievalley.com
Swain County. (800) 867-9246 / (828) 488-3681.

Culture and Recreation

Brevard Music Center. (828) 884-2011. www.brevardmusic.org
Canton Historical Museum. (828) 646-3412.
Carolina Nights Dinner Show, Maggie Valley. (888) 622-7469.
Cataloochee Ski Area. Nine slopes. (800) 768-0285.
Fish and Game Management. (828) 497-5201.
Flat Rock Playhouse Theatre. Summer theater. (828) 693-0731.
Folkmoot USA, Waynesville. International folk music festival. (877)-FOLKUSA. www.folkmoot.com
Fontana Village. Resort built from workers village during 1941 dam construction. (800) 849-2258.
Franklin Gem and Mineral Museum. (828) 369-7831.
Ghost Town in the Sky, Maggie Valley. Theme park recreates Old West town. (828) 926-1140.
Great Smoky Mountains Railway. Scenic mountain excursions. Dillsboro. (800) 872-4681.
Haywood Arts Repertory Theatre. (828) 456-6322.

Oconaluftee Village, Cherokee



Henderson County Farmers Mutual Curb Market, Hendersonville. (828) 692-8012.
High Hampton Inn. Historic inn, Cashiers. (800) 334-2551.
Highlands Playhouse. Summer theater. (828) 526-2695.
John C. Campbell Folk School, Brasstown. Traditional Appalachian crafts school since 1925. (828) 837-2775.
Jump Off Rock, Hendersonville. Overlook at end of Laurel Park Highway. (800) 828-4244.
Llama treks. (828) 627-6986.
MACO Crafts, Inc., Franklin. Largest craft cooperative in the Appalachian Mountains. (828) 524-7878.
Macon County Art Association. (828) 524-9647.
Macon County Historical Society. In the historic Pendergrass building, Franklin. (828) 524-9758.
Maggie Valley Opry House. Bluegrass, Raymond Fairchild. (828) 926-9336.
Mountain Heritage Center. At Western Carolina University, Cullowhee. (828) 227-7129.
Mountain Skate Center. Waynesville. (828) 456-4441.
Museum of the Cherokee Indian, Cherokee. (828) 497-3481.
Museum of North Carolina Handicrafts. At historic Shelton House, Waynesville. (828) 452-1551.
Nantahala Gorge. For whitewater excursions: Carolina Outfitters (800) GOT-RAFT, Nantahala Outdoors (800) 232-7238, Nantahala Rafts (800) 245-4811, Rolling Thunder River (800) 344-5838, Wildwater (800) 451-9972.
Oconaluftee Indian Village, Cherokee. Re-creation of late 18th century Cherokee village, surrounded by botanical garden. (828) 497-2315.
Old Pressley Sapphire Mine, Canton. (828) 648-6320.
Paul Porter Center for Performing Arts, Brevard. (828) 884-8330.
Qualla Arts and Crafts Mutual, Inc., Cherokee. Most successful Indian-owned craft cooperative in the U.S. (828) 497-3103.
Ruby City Gems & Minerals, Franklin. Lapidary shop and supplier. (828) 524-3967.
Soco Gardens Zoo. Maggie Valley. (828) 926-1746.
Scottish Tartans Museum. Franklin. (828) 369-7439.
Ski Scaly. South of Highlands. (800) 342-1387.
Southern Expressions Gallery & Studios, near Brevard. Contemporary mountain crafts. (828) 884-6242.
Stompin' Ground, Maggie Valley. Professional clogging shows. (828) 926-1288.
"Unto These Hills," Cherokee. Outdoor drama of Cherokee emigration. (828) 497-2111.
Western North Carolina Air Musuem, Hendersonville. (800) 828-4244.
Wolfe's Angel, Hendersonville. Mentioned in Thomas Wolfe novel, "Look Homeward, Angel." Highway 64 West just out of downtown. (800) 828-4244.

Parks, Monuments, Historic Sites

Carl Sandburg Home, Flat Rock. National Historic Site on 240-acre farm. (828) 693-4178.
Cradle of Forestry, Brevard, Pisgah National Forest. Home of America's first forestry conservation program, with museum and trails. (828) 877-3130. www.cradleofforestry.com
Historic Flat Rock District. (800) 828-4244.
Historic Hendersonville Depot. (828) 692-3135.
Historic Johnson Farm, Hendersonville. Late 19th century farm and tourist retreat. (828) 891-6585.
Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Half-million acres along Tennessee border. N.C. entrance at Cherokee. Three visitor centers. Gatlinburg phone: (615) 436-1200.
Highlands Nature Center. Flora, fauna and artifacts of the Nantahala region. (828) 526-2623.
Holmes State Forest, southwest of Hendersonville. Picnic areas, trails, camping. (828) 692-0100.
Joyce Kilmer Memorial Forest. Untouched virgin forest with areas of trails. (828) 479-6431.
Nantahala National Forest. 1.36 million acres, established 1911. (828) 526-3765.
Pisgah National Forest. Trails, picnic and camping areas in 6,400-acre forest. (828) 877-3265.
St. John in the Wilderness Church, Flat Rock. (828) 693-9783.

Electric Cooperatives

Blue Ridge Mountain EMC (Young Harris, Ga). (404) 379-3121.
Haywood EMC (Waynesville, Lake Toxaway). (828) 452-2281.

Nantahala mountains, Franklin County

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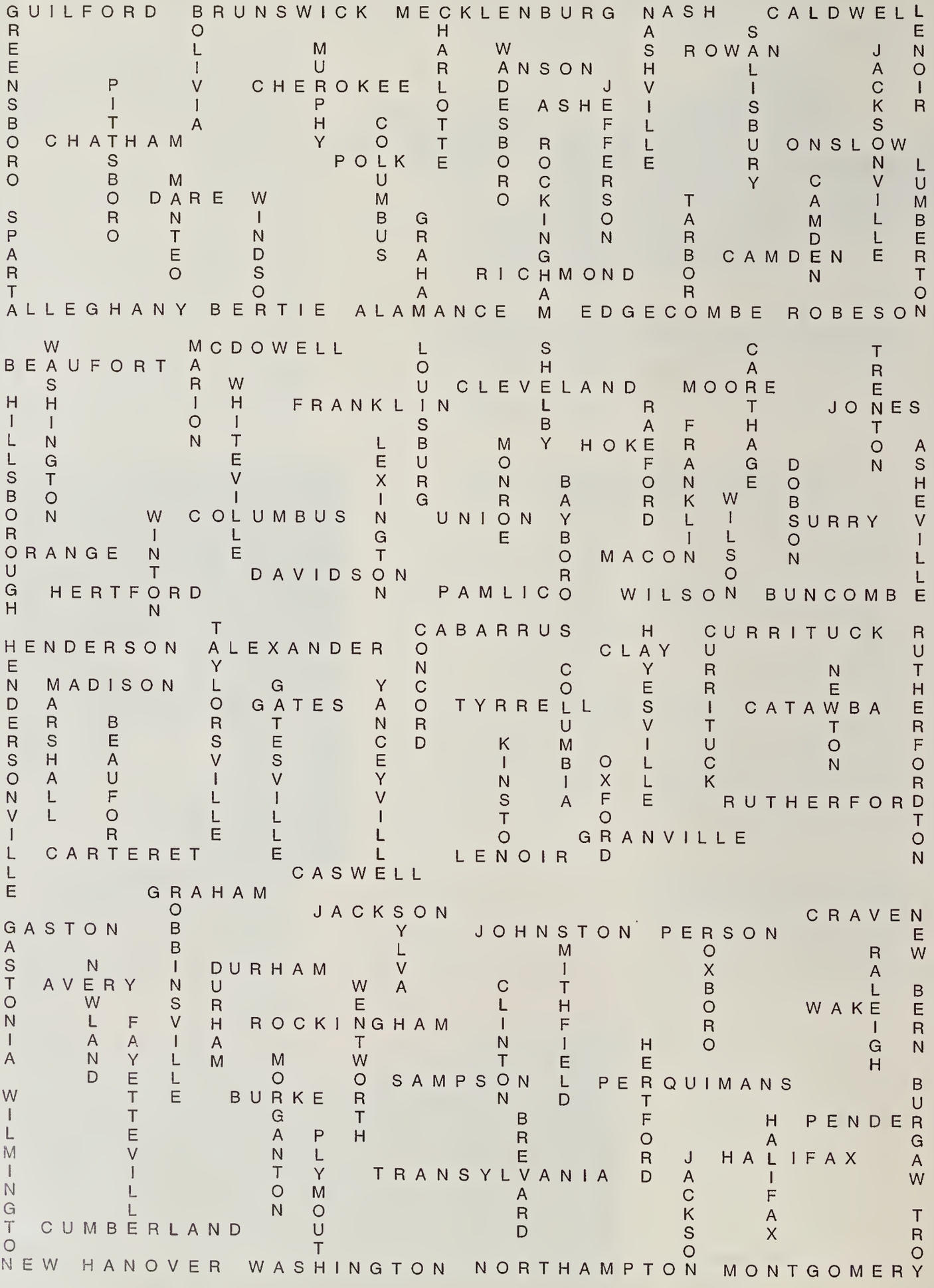
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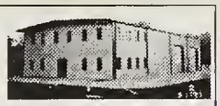

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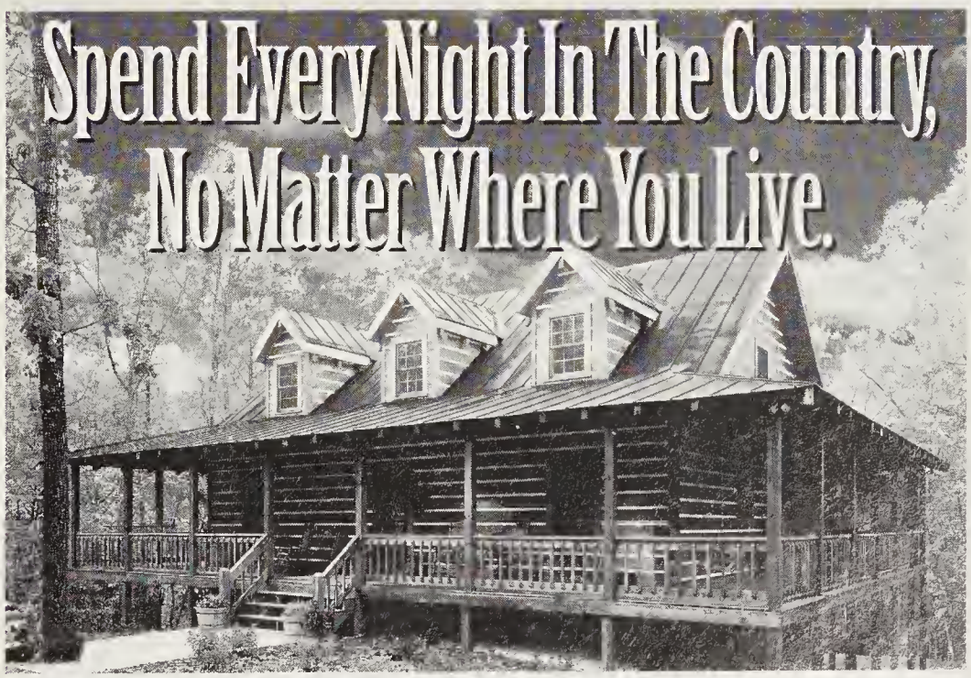

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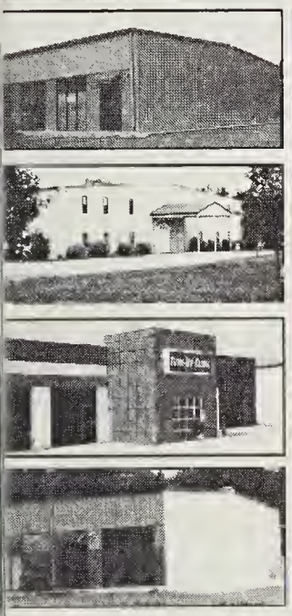

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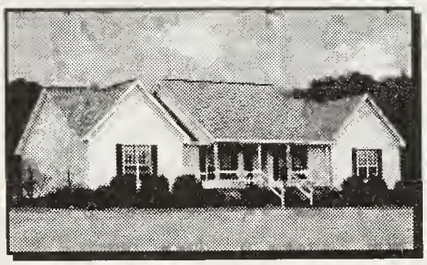

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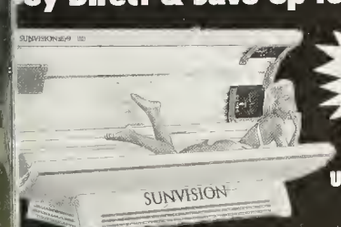

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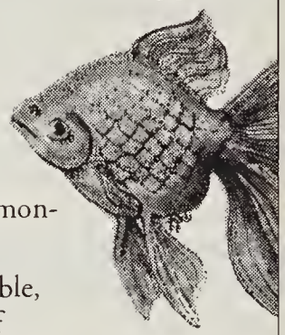

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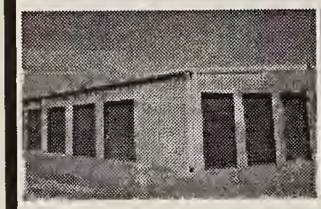

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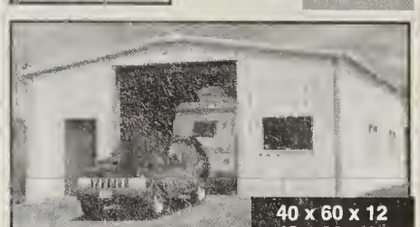

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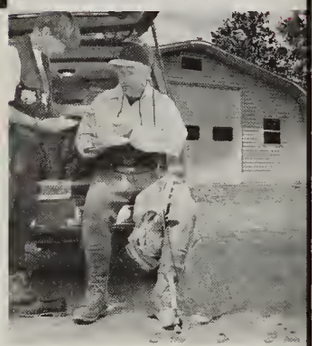

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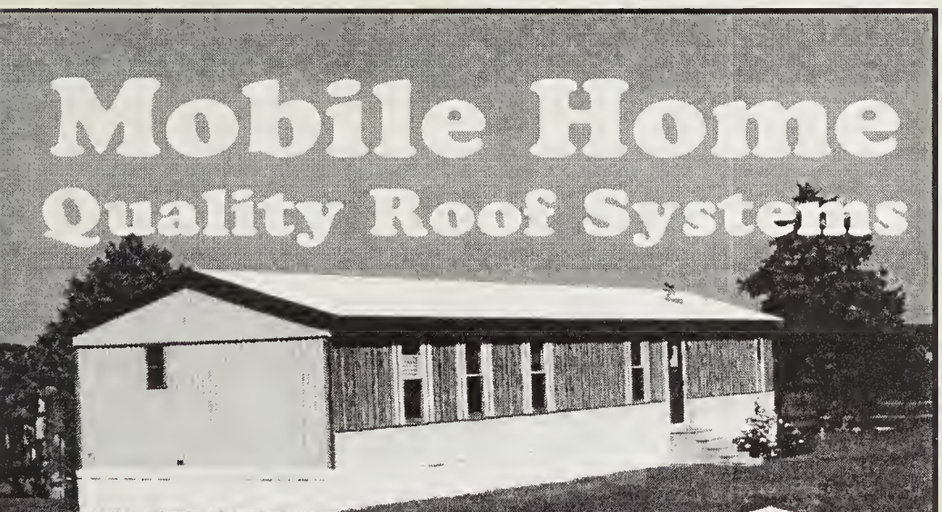

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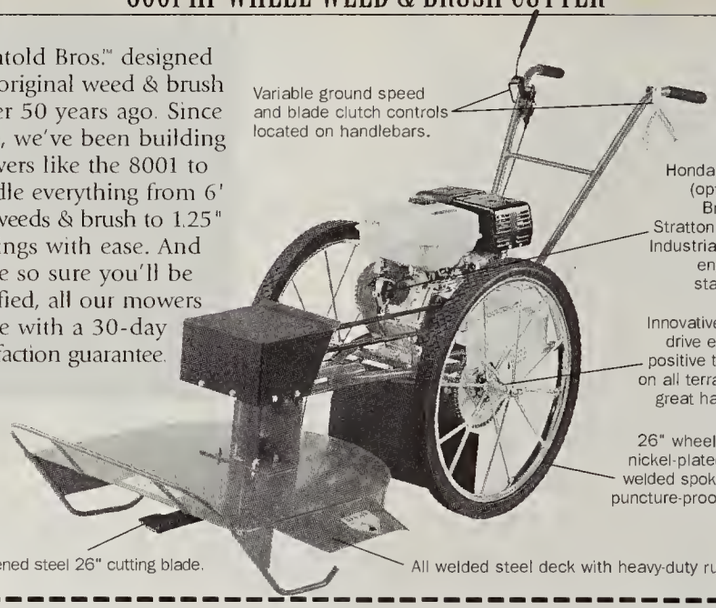
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Mountains (west of I-77)

Spruce Pine Goes Loco
May 1, Spruce Pine
Downtown, (828) 765-4051

Mule Days
May 1-2, Love Valley
Love Valley Arena,
(704) 592-7451

Lipizzan Stallions
May 1-2, West Jefferson
(336) 246-4483

Spring Craft & Garden Tour
May 1-2, Spruce Pine
Self-guided tour in Mitchell and Yancey counties,
(828) 682-7215

Crafts Exhibit
Through May 5, Asheville
Marbeling and jewelry, Folk Art Center, (704) 298-7928

Garden Party Street Fair
May 7, Canton
Downtown, 10 a.m.,
(828) 648-7925

Pickin' in the Park Concert
May 7, 14, 21, 28, Canton
Canton Recreation Park,
7 p.m., (828) 648-7925

Gospel Concert
May 7, West Jefferson
"The Uncles," Ashe Civic Center, $8, 7:30 p.m.,
(336) 246-4483

Textiles & Ceramics Exhibit
May 7-June 23, Asheville
Folk Art Center,
(828) 298-7928

Fiber Days
May 7-8, Asheville
Folk Art Center,
(828) 298-7928

Antique & Collectibles Fair
May 8, Canton
Downtown, (828) 648-7925

Bicentennial Celebration
May 7-8, Jefferson
Downtown, (336) 246-1849

Crafts Exhibit
Through May 9, Asheville
Community college students' work, Folk Art Center,
(704) 298-7928

Penland School of Arts & Crafts Exhibit
Through May 9, Asheville
Folk Art Center,
(704) 298-7928

Mother's Day and Trees Celebration
May 9, Pisgah Forest
Cradle of Forestry,
(828) 877-3130

Ashe Central Band Concert
May 9, West Jefferson
Ashe Civic Center, $5, 3 p.m.,
(336) 246-4483

Woodland Walk
May 12, Belmont
Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden, (704) 825-4490

Fine Antiques & Arts Sale
May 14-16, Murfreesboro, Tenn. Murphy Center, $5,
(615) 848-0901

Museum/Visitors Center Open House
May 15, Burnsville
The McElroy House (Yancy County Museum),
(828) 682-3671

Migratory Bird Day
May 15, Pisgah Forest
Cradle of Forestry,
(828) 877-3130

Spring Pig Pickin'
May 15, Triplett
Stewart Simmons Volunteer Fire Department,
(828) 264-1112

Appalachian Mountain Quilt Show
May 15, West Jefferson
Ashe Civic Center, $5, 10 a.m., (336) 246-4483

Juried Art and Craft Show
May 15, Blowing Rock
(828) 295-7851

Home Tour
May 16, Belmont
Five homes, $10, 1-5 p.m.,
(704) 825-8152

Pottery Exhibit
May 16-June 27, Asheville
Folk Art Center,
(828) 298-7928

High School Rodeo
May 21-22, Love Valley
Love Valley Arena,
(704) 592-7451

Mopar Car Show
May 22, Marion
McDowell Tech Community College, 8:30 a.m.,
(828) 659-1428

Carolina Moonlighters
May 22, Hickory
Lenoir-Rhyne, P.E. Monroe Auditorium, 8 p.m.,
(828) 328-7173

Young Talent Showcase
May 22, West Jefferson
Ashe Civic Center, $5, 7 p.m.,
(336) 246-4483

Appalachian Spring Celebration
Through May 24, Pisgah
Forest Cradle of Forestry,
(828) 877-3130

Garden Gambol
May 26, Belmont
Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden, (704) 825-4490

Lake Eden Arts Festival
May 28-30, Black Mountain
Camp Rockmont,
(828) 686-8742

Thermal City Miners Meet
May 28-31, Union Mills
Thermal City Gold Mine,
(828) 286-3016

Memorial Day Picnic and Concert
May 29, Belmont
Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden, Free, 11:30 a.m.,
(704) 825-4490

Annual Garden Jubliee
May 29-30, Hendersonville
Downtown, 10 a.m.,
(800) 828-4244

Historic Play
May 29-30, Burnsville
"Nance Dude," McElroy House, (828) 682-3671

Moonlight Meander
May 30, Belmont
Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden, advanced registration required, (704) 828-4490

Fishing Tournament
May 30, Blowing Rock
Fundraiser for Moses Cone Memorial Park, Chetola Resort, $5 adults, $2 kids,
1 p.m., (800)-CHETOLA

Carl Sandburg Folk & Poetry Festival
May 31, Flat Rock
Carl Sandburg Home,
10:30 a.m., (828) 693-4178

Benny Parsons Open
Golf Tournament
June 1, West Jefferson
Jefferson Landing, 11 a.m.,
(336) 246-4483

Spring Farm Fest
June 4-6, Lake Junaluska
Antique equipment, county fairgrounds, (828) 456-7760

In the Spirit of Elvis
June 5, West Jefferson
Ashe Civic Center, $8,
7:30 p.m., (336) 246-4483

Tour de Pets
June 5, Shelby
Cleveland County Human Society, (704) 435-6699

continued on next page

Piedmont (between I-77 & I-95)

Antique Truck Show
May 1, Greensboro
Volvo Headquarters,
(336) 657-8083

Heirloom Plant Sale
May 1, Winston-Salem
Old Salem, Triebel House,
10 a.m., (336) 721-7300

Deep River Park Spring Celebration
May 1, Gulf
Deep River Park, 9:30 a.m.,
(919) 898-4814

English Earth Pottery Exhibit
Through May 2, Charlotte
Mint Museum of Art,
(704) 337-2000

Silver Arts Exhibit
May 2-7, Rockingham
Part of Senior Games,
(910) 582-7985

Bluegrass Music Festival
May 7-9, Denton
Doyle Lawson and Quicksilver,
Denton FarmPark,
(336) 859-2755

Craft Fair
May 7-9, Greensboro
Piedmont Triad Farmers Market,
(336) 605-9157

Fiddlers & Bluegrass Convention
May 8, Mocksville
Clement Grove Picnic Grounds,
7 p.m., $7 adults, $1 under 12,
(336) 492-5805

Classic Street Rod Car Show
May 8, Aberdeen
Wal-Mart on Hwy. 15-501,
4-8 p.m., (910) 295-3953

Family Fun Day
May 8, Spencer
Bicycle Safety, N.C.
Transportation Museum,
(704) 636-2889

Enhancing Backyard Habitats
May 11, Raleigh
N.C. Museum of Natural
Sciences, 7:30 p.m.,
(919) 733-7450

Treasures of the Past
May 9-14, Winston-Salem
Old Salem, Museum of Early
Southern Decorative Arts,
(336) 721-7300

Inflatable Theater Company
May 14, Wintson-Salem
For kids, Stevens Center,
(336) 721-1945

Spring Herb Festival
May 14-16, Greensboro
Piedmont Triad Farmers Market,
(336) 605-9157

Coasters, Drifters, Platters Concert
May 15, Winston-Salem
Stevens Center, (336) 721-1945

Triad Harmony Express
May 15, Winston-Salem
Concert, Reynolda House,
8 p.m., $8, (336) 725-5325

Ole Mill Crank-Up
May 15-16, Sanford
Festival, off NC 42 West,
(919) 776-5428

Native American Pow Wow
May 15-16, Hamlet
Richmond Community College
Campus, (910) 582-7000

Children's Chorus Concert
May 16, Winston-Salem
Reynolda House, Free, 5 p.m.,
(336) 725-5325

Museum Week
May 17, 19-21, Raleigh
N.C. Museum of Natural
Sciences, Free, 11 a.m.,
(919) 733-7450

Museum Day
May 18, Raleigh
N.C. Museum of Natural
Sciences, Free, 11 a.m.,
(919) 733-7450

Ralph Pennington Memorial Bluegrass Festival
May 21-22, Gold Hill
Gold Hill Mines Historic Park,
$6, (704) 279-5674

Strawberry Day
May 22, Greensboro
Piedmont Triad Farmers Market,
10 a.m., (336) 605-9157

Cadillac Invitational Golf Classic
May 24, Greensboro
Grandover Resort & Conference
Center, (800) 356-5362

Big Band Concert
May 27, Wake Forest
Leon Jordan's Continentals,
downtown, 6:30-9:30 p.m.

Storytelling Festival
May 29, Greensboro
Piedmont Triad Farmers Market,
10 a.m., (336) 605-9157

Military Program
May 29-30, Spencer
N.C. Transportation Museum,
(704) 636-2889

Community Sing
May 30, Gulf
Camelback Bridge at Deep River
Park, 7 p.m., (919) 898-4814

"Sliding Scale" Art Exhibit
Through May 30,
Winston-Salem
Southeastern Center for
Contemporary Art,
(336) 725-1904

Art Exhibit
Through May 30,
Winston-Salem
Works of Ce Scott, Southeastern
Center for Contemporary Art,
(336) 725-1904

Art Exhibit
Through May 30,
Winston-Salem
Southeastern U.S. artists,
Southeastern Center for
Contemporary Art,
(336) 725-1904

American Crafts Collection
Through May 30, Charlotte
Mint Museum of Craft + Design,
(704) 337-2000

N.C. Currency Exhibit
Through May 31, Chapel Hill
Wilson Library, UNC-Chapel
Hill, free, (919) 962-1172

Granville County Gold: History of Tobacco
Through late spring, Oxford
Granville County Museum,
(919) 693-9706

Studio Glass Exhibit
Through July 4, Charlotte
Harvey K. Littleton collection,
Mint Museum of Craft + Design,
(704) 337-2000

Art Exhibit
Through Aug. 22,
Winston-Salem
Work of Edward Hopper,
Reynolda House,
(336) 725-5325

Coastal Plain (east of I-95)

Colonial Day & Picnic
May 1, Currie
Moores Creek National
Battlefield, (910) 283-5591

Harmony Hall Reunion & Picnic Celebration
May 1, White Oak
Harmony Hall Plantation,
10 a.m., (910) 866-4844

"Something's Afoot"
May 1, 7-8, Elizabeth City
Musical-Comedy, College of the
Albemarle Auditorium,
7:30 p.m., (800) 335-9050

Micajah Autry Day Festival
May 1, Autryville
(910) 525-5305

Rocky Hock May Play Day
May 1, Edenton
Family fun, 10 a.m.,
(252) 482-3400

Inter-Tribal Powwow
May 1-2, Hatteras Island
(252) 995-4440

Happening on the Common Festival
May 2, Tarboro
Historic Town Common,
12-6 p.m., (252) 823-4159

Fun Day in Bath Towne
May 2, Bath
12-5 p.m., (252) 923-5571

Wood Sculptures
Through May 2, Beaufort
N.C. Maritime Museum,
(252) 728-7317

Colonial Quilt Lovers Guild
May 3-29, Elizabeth City
Pasquotank Arts Council
Gallery, Free, (252) 338-6455

General Baptist State Convention
May 4-6, Elizabeth City
ECSU Kermit E. White
Graduate Center, Saint
Stephens Baptist Church, Free
(252) 331-2085

"An Evening in Paris"
May 8, Edenton
Edenton Cotton Mill,
(252) 482-3400

Mai-Fest '99
May 8, Williamston
Crafts, Williamston High
School campus, 10 a.m.,
(252) 792-6146

"Catfish" Hunter Day
May 8, Perquimans County
(252) 426-5657

Variety Show
May 8 & 22, Rose Hill
Dinner Theatre, Duplin Winery,
7 p.m., (800) 774-9634

The Sensory Garden
May 8, New Bern
Tryon Palace Auditorium, $4,
10 a.m., (252) 514-4900

"Quilters"
May 13-16, Lumberton
Play, Carolina Civic Center,
(910) 738-4339

"What the Butler Saw"
May 14-15, 20-22,
Elizabeth City
Elizabeth City Main Street
8 p.m., (252) 338-1697

Historic Home Tour
May 21-23, Hertford
Perquimans County,
(252) 482-7455

Fun Junktion Grand Opening
May 21-23, Elizabeth City
(252) 338-2848

Aurora Fossil Festival
May 28-30, Aurora
(252) 322-4238

Gospelfest Jubilee
May 28-30, Elizabeth City
Waterfront parks,
(252) 331-2925

Loon Day
May 29, Harker's Island
Core Sound Waterfowl
Museum
(252) 728-1500

Arts & Crafts Festival
May 29, Ocracoke
Howard Street, 10 a.m.,
(252) 928-7375

Dance Assembly
May 29, New Bern
Tryon Palace, $4, 11 a.m. & 2
p.m., (252) 514-4900

Scots Heritage Day
June 5, Currie
Moores Creek National
Battlefield, (910) 283-5591

Glory Days: Coastal Carolina Baseball
Through Oct. 31,
Elizabeth City
Museum of the Albemarle,
Free, (252) 335-1453

Family Fun on the Farm
June 5, Elizabeth City
Museum of the Albemarle,
Free, (252) 335-1453

Deadlines:
July . . . . .May 27
Aug. . . . .June 25

A phone number must be included with event listings in order to be published.

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Valparaiso, IN – Chinese herbalists used it 5,000 years ago... today modern research has discovered its anti-aging properties. What is it? It's Ginkgo Biloba, a tree that survived the dinosaurs!

Now a family owned herbal mail order firm, Indiana Botanic Gardens, has created a "Super Ginkgo Biloba" by adding four powerful elements to their Ginkgo Biloba extract. Not only do people get the anti-aging properties of Ginkgo, but they also get three herbs: Cayenne (for circulation), Yarrow (for liver), Ginger (for stomach), plus CoQ-10 an energizing antioxidant that helps protect the heart. All of this is in one tablet!

Indiana Botanic Gardens calls their exclusive new blend ***Ginkgo Plus 4.*** A spokesperson from Indiana Botanic Gardens said, "We've been in business since 1910 and have never seen so much consumer demand for a product...It's the ultimate anti-aging formula to promote mental sharpness and physical energy."

You can call them toll-free, 1-800-644-8327 to order a two month supply (120 tablets) at 50% off the regular $39.90 price...now on Sale for $19.95. Or order by mail, Indiana Botanic Gardens, P.O. Box 5, Hammond, IN 46325. Whether you phone or write, mention Discount Code CC9EB to get the Sale Price.

GP8

A buyer's guide
by Sharon O'Malley

Grilling in

Can't wait for sizzling summer days to start grilling up your favorite outdoor feasts? Then don't. An array of electric tabletop grills allows you to safely grill fish, meat and vegetables right in your kitchen, all year round.

1. Heart Smart.

Large enough for family grilling but compact enough for a countertop. West Bend's Heart Smart indoor grill is designed to drain grease from foods for low-fat grilling. Its 1,500 watts of power means quick heat recovery and sizzle. A heating unit is embedded in the ribbed grill's surface, which has drain slots for low-fat cooking and a solid area on one end for grilling vegetables and keeping food warm. Look for it at gourmet food stores and warehouse clubs. Price is around $67.95. Or call (414) 334-6949 for a specific location.

2. Look ma, no smoke.

T-Fal throws in the steak knives and barbecue tongs with its Excelio Indoor BBQ, featuring an adjustable thermostat, safe-to-the-touch handles and non-stick ridged grill plates for healthier cooking and easy cleanups. It also comes with an on/off indicator light, removable dishwasher-safe drip tray, grill/griddle plates and recipes. The smokeless grill sells for around $89.99 at discount and department stores. Call (800) 395-8325.

3. Grand Canyon.

Its extra-large grilling surface makes Krups' Canyon indoor grill a good bet for large families. The two-position grill can be set either for cooking or keeping food warm. The Canyon also features cool-touch handles for safe operation, a stainless steel drop tray that is easy to remove and clean. It has a simple on/off switch and a safety switch that makes sure the grill operates only when the drip tray is securely in place. Buy it for around $69.99 at department and specialty stores. Call (800) 526-5377.

4. Two in one.

Whether you want breakfast or dinner, you can cook it on DeLonghi's electric barbecue plus griddle. Its two-zone system splits the cooking surface into two areas that are independently regulated with separate temperature controls — so you can cook thick slices on one end and delicate foods on the other. Add the unit's non-stick griddle plate, and your grill converts to a griddle for making eggs, pancakes, bacon or grilled cheese sandwiches. It sells for around $60 at most department stores. Or call (800) 322-3848.

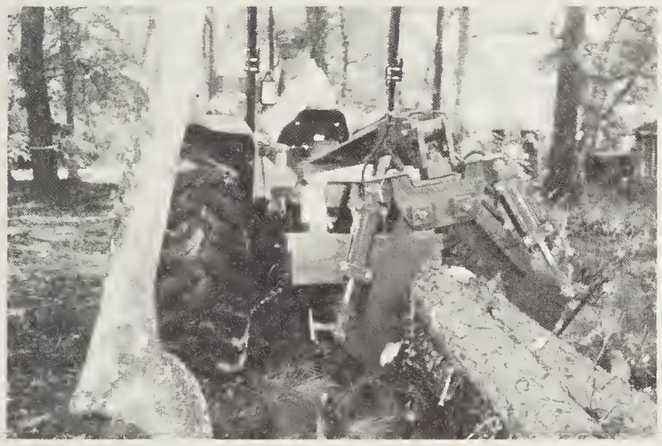
5. Dishwasher safe.

Imagine grilling a full meal — and never scrubbing the grill! All of the electric indoor grills in Hamilton Beach's Heart Smart line are dishwasher safe. Model 31610 (shown) has just two parts: grill and base. Rounded grill bars allow fat to drip between them and away from food. And its embedded heating elements provide even and consistent grilling with little smoke. Look for it at Wal-Mart for around $69.99. Or call (800) 851-8900.

6. Double duty.

Toastmaster's Large Cool-Edge Grill is a grill-and-griddle-in-one. Sear steaks on one side while you fry up eggs and hash browns on the other. The unit features a cool-to-the-touch polyester rim surrounding the large cooking surface. And it has a backstop for easy removal of food. In addition, a non-stick surface lets food slide off easily, and it's easy to clean because the grill is completely immersible when its probe is removed. Look for it at discount and department stores for around $61.95. Or call (800) 947-3744.

This guide is for informational purposes only and not intended as an endorsement by the North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives.



TAYLOR

The "Little Red" Logger

The "Little Red" Logger is ideal for small logging operations and tree farmers and is designed for use with 50 – 80 HP tractors. The tractor should be equipped with a brush guard, roll bar, and seat belt.

Simple hydraulic requirements include one hydraulic function on the tractor and two quick disconnect hydraulic outlets. The 3-point, heavy duty grapple has a 35" inside dimension with the grapple open and a 3.5" inside dimension with the grapple closed.

Grapple rotation is 85 degrees in either direction; and, the total weight of the grapple is 750 pounds.

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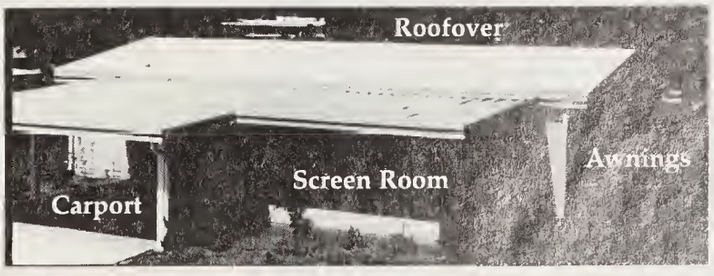

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by Hank Smith

Spring-flowering bulbs now give way to summer annuals and many perennials come into bloom.

Timely tips

1. If disease wasn't a problem last year, dig and divide chrysanthemum plants that are now sending up new growth.

2. Mow lawn after 7 p.m. with sharp mower. A dull mower blade can do damage quicker than insects and disease. Unless finely shredded, remove clippings.

3. For abundant summer bloom on crape myrtle, feed with a balanced fertilizer such as 8-8-8 or 10-10-10 analysis. For large shrub, use as much as one cup.

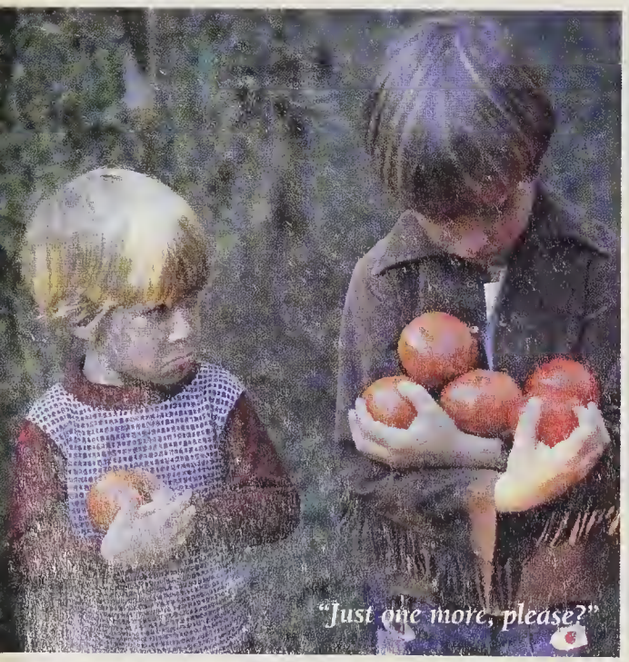
4. To aid in preventing spread of plant diseases, water early in the morning. Use a soaker nozzle, not an overhead sprinkler.

5. When planting vegetables, be certain to allow space between plants so they can fully mature.

6. Continue to spray rose bushes every seven to 10 days for black spot and mildew control.

7. Replenish mulches around shrubs and flowerbeds.

8. Reproduce altheas by taking 6-inch cuttings. Plunge cuttings in sand. Keep moist. Prune heavily in winter to encourage plenty of new flowering wood.



"Just one more, please?"

Turning spring into summer

Newly set vegetables and annuals benefit from temporary shade as they adjust to new growing conditions. Gardeners should prepare flower beds and borders, mulch plantings, prune spring-flowering shrubs in need of control to fit allotted space, mulch existing and new plantings, get lawns ready for summer and plant vegetable gardens. Herbicides may be applied for weed control. Follow directions on the container. Remove all spent flowers as they take growth energy in their quest to form seed heads. Stay alert for insect pests such as whiteflies, thrips, lacebugs, bagworms, chinch bugs and spider mites. Diseases such as black spot and powdery mildew, especially prevalent on roses, are encouraged by wet foliage, so don't spray water on leaves.

Plant a surprise

Lycoris or amaryllis halli is an interesting lily, often called hardy amaryllis or magic-lily. It also is known as Surprise lily and Hurricane lily. It flowers during the hurricane season. Bulbs should be planted in a permanent bed, because like the peony it does not easily transplant. The pink clusters of small flowers are borne on naked stems about two or two-and-half feet in length. Flowers appear before foliage. Later in the summer, strap-like leaves develop. Like all lilies, leaves should remain until they mature and brown. Lycoris prefers partial shade and fertile soil well supplied with humus. Lycoris flowers in August and September. Bulbs should be planted as soon as available. Plant at depth of five inches. Lycoris is very effective planted among ferns or in the foreground of a shrubbery border.

Choosing tomatoes

When selecting tomato plants, choose varieties resistant to fusarium and verticillium wilt. Such should be marked at the garden center. Look for stocky, disease- and insect-free plants. Avoid tall, spindly or leggy plants. Water tomato soil often enough to keep uniform moisture. Unless a late season variety is being grown, top the tomato plants by removing the growing tip in late June or early July. Most varieties will not set fruit when night temperatures average about 75 degrees. Topping prevents excessive foliage growth, promotes larger fruit, and prevents cracking and blossom end rot.

Quick cover

Gourd vines are fast growing covers for metal fences in the sun. They can be supported against wooden fences and walls with fishing line. The fruit comes in many shapes and sizes – favorites for indoor winter decorations. After maturity, cut fruit from the vine. Dry in a sunny spot for several days. Wash with soapy water and household disinfectant to control bacteria. Dry again. To help preserve, coat with floor wax.

Daylilies can be moved

Usual practice is to transplant daylilies as they finish blooming, but transplanting can be done this month. By moving while plants are in bloom, it is possible to group by color. Plants must be kept well watered after digging-dividing-replanting so roots may become well established in the new area. After plants flower satisfactorily for five or six years, they should be dug and divided more frequently to prevent matting of roots. Cramped roots weaken plants and produce inferior blooms. After digging, cut tubers apart. Leave at least three to five tubers in each clump. Conserve moisture and discourage weed growth by applying a 2-inch mulch of rotted sawdust, leaf mold or pine straw.

Continue pruning

Spring-flowering shrubs in need of control-pruning should be pruned as they complete the flowering cycle. These include flowering quince, deutzia, forsythia, pearl bush and the spireas. Also prune away any stray branches of coniferous evergreens to help thicken new growth. May is the ideal time to prune Oriental magnolias and mahonias. Make a note in the garden notebook: move ill-placed aggressive shrubs next winter. Hedges need frequent pruning to keep them compact. Prune so bottoms are wider than tops. This keeps hedge full all the way to the ground as lower leaves receive adequate sunshine.

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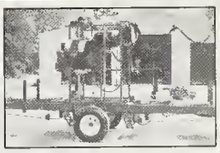

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Perfect Hard-Cooked Eggs

1. Place eggs in single layer heavy saucepan.
2. Cover eggs with enough water so water is about 1 inch above eggs.
3. Bring to a boil.
4. Cover and remove pan from heat source.
5. Let stand for about 17-20 minutes in hot water.
6. Remove from hot water and place in a bowl of cold water.
7. Refrigerate immediately if you're not going to eat them. Hard-cooked eggs remain good in the refrigerator up to one week.

May is National Egg Month. For more information and recipes, contact the North Carolina Egg Association, 1150 S.E. Maynard Rd., Suite 130, Cary, NC, 27511. (919) 319-1195.

Country Quiche

1 (9-inch) baked pie shell (if frozen, use deep-dish style)
1 tablespoon butter
1/2 cup chopped celery
1/2 cup chopped green pepper
1/2 cup chopped onion
1/ 2 cup (2-ounce) diced cooked lean ham or turkey ham
1/2 cup (2-ounce) shredded, reduced-fat cheddar cheese
6 eggs
1 cup skim milk
1/2 teaspoon salt, optional
1/2 teaspoon paprika
Onion slices separated into rings, optional
Green onion curls, optional

In small skillet over medium heat, cook celery, pepper and onion in butter until tender but not brown, about 6 minutes. Sprinkle vegetables, ham and cheese into pie shell. Beat together eggs, milk, salt, if desired, and paprika until well blended. Pour over vegetable mixture. Bake in preheated oven at 375 degrees until knife inserted near center comes out clean, about 30 to 40 minutes. Let stand 5 minutes before serving. Garnish with onion rings and green onion curls if desired. Serves 6.

Hearty Macaroni Salad

6 hard-cooked eggs, cut in eighths
2 hard-cooked eggs, quartered (optional for garnish)
1 (7-ounce) package elbow macaroni
1 (7-ounce) can crabmeat, drained and flaked
1/3 cup chopped celery
1/3 cup chopped onion
1/4 cup chopped parsley
1 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon pepper
1 cup light mayonnaise or salad dressing

Cook macaroni according to package instructions; drain and cool thoroughly. Meanwhile, combine crabmeat, eggs, celery, onion, parsley, salt and pepper in large mixing bowl. Chill thoroughly before serving. Garnish with additional quartered hard-cooked eggs if desired. Serves 4-6.

Carolina Kitchen online: www.ncemcs.com

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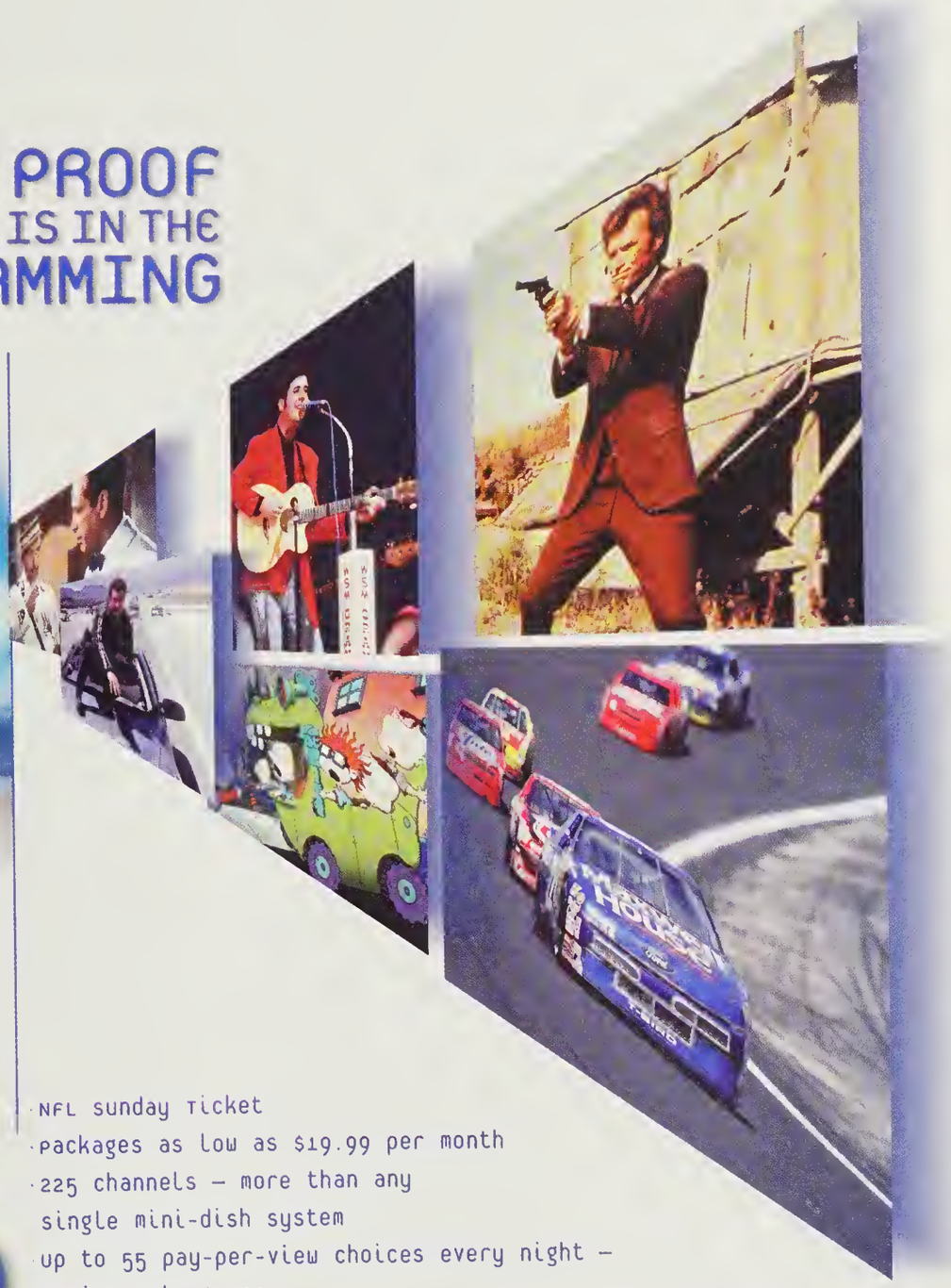

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